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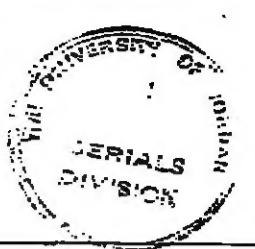
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THE TIMES



No. 65,228

THURSDAY MARCH 30 1995

Memo leaked on Major interview

BBC accused of yielding to ministers

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

LABOUR accused the BBC last night of giving in to government intimidation over an interview with John Major to be staged on *Panorama* on Monday night.

A leaked memorandum from the programme's deputy editor to other senior BBC executives shows how they were going to great lengths to prepare a defence against opposition accusations that Mr Major was getting preferential treatment three days before the Scottish elections.

Downing Street decided at the end of last week that Mr Major should do the interview as part of what appears to be a sustained propaganda offensive, including big speeches this week to the Conservative Central Council and the Britain in the World conference, a national newspaper interview and a high profile visit to America next week. But the BBC's internal memo recommends that the corporation should say that it had a long-standing request to Downing Street for an interview, which it had renewed three weeks ago. The memo discusses tactics to prevent other party leaders having an automatic right of reply.

The BBC last night confirmed the authenticity of the memorandum, which shows the programme's deep sensitivity to charges from other parties of lack of balance. Corporation sources there said the leak had caused massive embarrassment.

Mr Robinson's memo raises the question of how the programme should handle questions from other parties about

giving prominence to Mr Major so close to the Scottish elections next Thursday and in the run-up to the local elections in England and Wales in May.

He writes: "This is particularly important given that the interview is bound to be written up as forming part of a Number 10 strategy to promote Major in advance of both the elections and the Easter recess. It comes less than a week after high-profile speeches..."

He goes on: "My suggestion is that we say that we have had a bid in for the Prime Minister for some months which he has finally accepted: that this is an interesting time to interview him since it comes in advance of the beginning of the Maastricht 2 process, his visit to the United States and the imminent talks between the Government and Sinn Féin; and given the Government's continuing unpopularity and disarray."

He says the BBC will need an explanation from Tony Blair, Paddy Ashdown and Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, of why they were not being granted similar interviews. He goes on: "As for Blair, we can say that *Panorama* recently made a film with him in which he had a good deal of time to outline his views. We have no plans for a set-piece interview with him at present but may wish to interview him before the General Election."

"Ashdown is not so easy! Unless we intend to give him an interview on *Panorama*, we will have to refer to other strands - eg, he was on *The Record* last week. The

same problem applies to Alex Salmond."

The memo, written to Tim Gardam, head of weekly programmes, current affairs, Steve Hewlett, the *Panorama* editor, and David Jordan, the BBC political adviser, ends: "We will not publicise this until Monday, but need to get our line straight by then."

A Labour spokesman said last night: "We hope the interview, and the conditions which seem to have been agreed, is not the first sign that the intimidation campaign against the BBC is working."

The BBC said last night: "The attention of the press and politicians is firmly focused on the BBC at the moment. It is not surprising that we should be discussing how we handle inquiries about a prime ministerial interview."

A spokesman said it was "absolute nonsense" to suggest the memo was anything to do with the series of attacks on the BBC this week by The discourse comes after a four-day onslaught against the BBC by senior Cabinet ministers including Michael Howard, Jonathan Aiden and Jeremy Hanley. "It has nothing to do with that. It is about us making sure that we fulfil our obligations of impartiality."

However, Labour leadership sources suggested last night that the interview was part of a local elections strategy and that the BBC was helping the Tories to disguise that. If that was the case it

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Letters, page 19



With six plumed black horses in front and more than twenty limousines behind, Reginald Kray had to make do with a modest blue estate car for the grand procession to his twin's funeral yesterday

East End honours villain turned folk hero

By Alan Hamilton and Stewart Tendler

THE East End accorded one of its most infamous sons the equivalent of a state funeral yesterday. Crowds big enough to gladden the heart of an emperor turned out to shower the last journey of Ronnie Kray with tribute, and to greet his handcuffed twin brother Reggie as though he were a conquering hero.

Thousands lined the route of the cortege from the funeral parlour in Bethnal Green, where the body had lain in state in an open coffin under 24-hour guard, to St Matthew's church nearby, and even for much of the 12-mile route to the family burial plot in Chingford Mount cemetery.

As a final tribute to his twin, Reg had a message printed in the funeral order of service: "My brother Ron is now free and at peace. Ron had great humour, a vicious temper, was kind and generous. He did it all his way, but above all he was a man. That's how I will always remember my twin brother Ron. God bless."

The Kray twins, who long ago assumed the status of folk heroes, were each serving 30 years for different murders. Ronnie, the elder of the two by 45 minutes, died of a heart attack in Broadmoor two weeks ago aged 61; Reggie was let out of Maidstone for the day under heavy guard.

Outside English's Funeral Parlour, the day began with the arrival of one vanload after another of flowers that almost blocked the pavement. Underworld floral tributes are an art form all their own. Atop the hearse was a wreath fashioned like a boxing ring, and another like a boxing glove, side by side with a relatively restrained spray of orchids and roses with lots of love from Barbara Windsor.

The twins' older brother, Charlie, arrived at the funeral

Continued on page 3, col 5

Shake-up for Army command

The most radical Army shake-up in 50 years will place all its fighting units under the command of a single general for the first time this week. Land Command, the Army headquarters to be formed on Saturday, will bring together 143,200 regular and reserve troops across Great Britain, and overseas and will be run by General Sir John Willey.

European games

In qualifying matches for the European championship last night, Scotland held Russia to a goalless draw in Moscow while Northern Ireland managed a 1-1 draw against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin.

Wales lost 3-1 to Bulgaria in Sofia. Page 44

Aitken denies Iran arms link

By Nicholas Wood and Jon Ashworth

JONATHAN AITKEN, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, last night launched a campaign to save his political career after claims that he was involved in breaching an arms embargo on Iran during its war with Iraq.



Aitken: 'targeted by unfriendly voices'

He said he had been unaware that a company of which he was once a director allegedly exported naval guns to Iran via Singapore.

But his attempt to clear his name was undermined when Gerald James, the former chairman of the firm BMARC and Astra Holdings, its parent company, claimed that Mr Aitken knew about the Iranian connection.

Mr Aitken said he was being "targeted" by "unfriendly voices", and said he had

evidence to ensure that he suffered no lasting damage in front of a "fair-minded public and House of Commons". He had passed correspondence on

the affair to the Scott Inquiry - which is investigating sales of arms to Iraq - and would be happy to abide by its verdict.

Downing Street officials stood by Mr Aitken last night as Labour pressed John Major for an immediate inquiry. Mr Aitken was considering making a personal statement to MPs today.

Speaking to reporters at the Treasury, he said his testimony could be corroborated by the three other directors of the Lincolnshire-based BMARC, of which he was a non-executive board member between 1988 and 1990, when he was a backbench Tory MP. The company collapsed in February 1992. Major General Donald Isles, former deputy

managing director of BMARC, said there had been no reason to suspect that the Elsmillan order, known as Project Lisi, was ever anything more than a normal shipment to Singapore. The cargo was destined for Charter Industries (CIS) in Singapore, a big local defence manufacturer.

He said: "It was just a normal contract under an export licence to Singapore which is a member of the Commonwealth, and no end-user certificate was needed. Mr Aitken would know only that this was a contract with CIS in Singapore." End-user certificates specifying terms of usage are required for deals with non-Commonwealth countries.

Continued on page 2, col 6

Spotlight on efficiency of councils

By Ian Murray, Community Correspondent

THE best and worst councils in England and Wales are exposed by the Audit Commission today in the first set of annual league tables for local authority performance.

There are wide variations in the delivery of most services, even among authorities with the same kind of political control or working in the same geographical area.

Several councils have complained that the tables, produced as part of the Citizen's Charter, are unfair.

Leading article, page 19

Efficiency league, page 32

Conference marks turning point - for quails

CONFERENCE SKETCH BY MATTHEW PARRIS

OCCASIONS, like institutions, are given away by the smallest of outward signs. The presence of marble, plate-glass, Mercedes Benzes, Royalty. Men with Walkie-Talkies and Women in Hats, is an unerring tell-tale. Don't even think about going. The occasion will be fatuous.

Nearing yesterday's Royal Institute of International Affairs Conference on Britain in the World at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, I saw a line of seven Mercedes, a Daimler, two Rolls-Royces, one stretch Cadillac, three Jags and a vastly increased incidence of women in hats.

The plate glass doors of the marbled Conference Centre loomed. The walkie-talkies crackled. The heart sank.

Having failed to arrange accreditation I just walked in, carrying my LT two-zone Travelcard. The walkie-talkies were too busy walkie-talking to each other to notice. The Hats only ever notice other Hats. The key to establishing one's place in the sun on

nobody has any business to be there. Nobody has any business. Everybody is there.

Prince Charles was there. The PM was there. The Foreign Secretary was there. Henry Kissinger. Sir David Putnam. Lord Weidenfeld and Mr Russell Twiss of the *Reader's Digest* were there; 706 grandees, diplomats, politicians, aidniks, peacemakers, warmiks, apparatchiks and spooks were there: 200 journalists were there, watching them watch each other.

The bluntness divided into two sections: grand and not-so-grand, each graced by nomenclature which appears to be English but has no real English meaning. The grand bluntness was called "Plenary Session". "Plenary" is European and means the real McCoy. Other sessions were called "Break-Out Sessions". "Break-Out" is PR-speak and means nothing. I head-

"Democracy and Development", which means foreign aid. The panel was chaired by Diana Warwick (recycled from the Nolan Committee: within a radius of one mile of Westminster and Whitehall everyone chairs each other's committees). It comprised a "rapporteur" (Euro-speak for God knows what. He seemed to be writing and four speakers.

The "rapporteur" was a professor. The speakers were one Tory baroness and privy councillor, one Labour baroness, one baron professor, and a Nigerian general. The general did not turn up as he was under house arrest.

The first speaker from the floor was an Anglican cleric with a beard. It struck me that if you wanted a mental checklist of what to avoid if democracy and development are to thrive, you could do worse than start your list with beards, generals, peers, privy

The ideal speaker for this conference would be titled The Reverend the Right Hon General Professor Lord Beard, and would arrive in a stretch Cadillac, his wife in a hat.

Nothing of consequence was said. In the absent general's place a stand-in (with a beard) said that the last person he had substituted for was the late Diana Dors. He seemed to think this was incongruous. But Diana Dors could have substituted for any of us, Dionne Warwick could replace Diana Warwick and the Nolan Sisters staff the Nolan Committee, for all the difference it would make.

It was time for lunch. The hour of the Hats was nigh. An address by the Prince of Wales would be followed by a meal of quails in a chutney sauce. The conference was said to mark a turning-point. Only for the quails.

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Henry Kissinger, page 18
Leading article, page 19

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Lottery success spells end for cancer charity's £1.5m fundraiser

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of small charities and fundraising schemes stand to lose millions of pounds in public donations as a direct result of the National Lottery, it was claimed last night.

Stuart Etherington, chief executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, said many charities that raised funds from games of chance, such as raffles and scratchcard games, had

already seen a drop in their incomes. "The assumption must be that charities raising funds in a similar way to the lottery must be hardest hit."

Tenovus, a leading cancer charity based in Cardiff, said yesterday it was closing its monthly lottery game, which raises £1.5 million a year and provides eight full-time and 500 part-time jobs.

Michael Downs, the charity's organising secretary, said Tenovus, whose patron is Princess Margaret, expected its annual in-

come of £3 million to halve as a result. There had been a 25 per cent drop in ticket sales since the National Lottery was launched in November.

Mr Downs plans to ask Stephen Dorrell, the Heritage Secretary, for compensation to make up for the shortfall in its income. "We simply could not compete against the massive prizes and advertising budgets that Camelot, the organisers of the National Lottery, had at their disposal."

Tenovus offered a monthly top

prize of £25,000, compared with the multimillion-pound jackpots of the National Lottery on-line game and a top prize of £50,000 on its scratchcard game. The charity will continue its operations on a smaller scale.

The Lotteries Council, representing 150 small charity and sports club lotteries, said yesterday that it had repeatedly warned the Government that the National Lottery could kill local fund-raising draws. Ron Allen, the general executive, said that takings among his mem-

bers had declined by 15 to 20 per cent since the launch of the National Lottery.

Steve Walmsley, commercial manager at third division Rochdale Football Club, said his weekly draw had lost 2,600 of its 12,500 members since the launch of the National Lottery and that it was now losing 30 to 40 more a week.

"In the last couple of weeks we have managed to recruit more new members than we have lost, but the net fall in our income will still be £80,000 this year," he said.

Miriam Lewis, who runs a fund-raising lottery for the Bury Hospice in Greater Manchester, said that it was clear that money was being diverted from local charities to the National Lottery.

Alun Michael, a Labour spokesman, tabled a Commons early-day motion yesterday calling on the Government to find ways of meeting Tenovus's shortfall. "The Government needs to make sure that charity lotteries are not trampled underfoot by it," he said.

The National Council for Volun-

tary Organisations is due to unveil details on Friday of a survey into the threat the National Lottery is posing to charities. In December it predicted a £172 million loss in charitable donations as a result of the lottery.

The Heritage Department declined to comment. Delivering a lecture in Liverpool, Mr Dorrell said the lottery had raised roughly £300 million for the five good causes of the arts, sports, heritage, charities and the millennium celebrations.

Biggest reform of Army since war

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY 140,000 regular and part-time soldiers are to be drawn under a single command from April 1 in the biggest reorganisation of the British Army since the Second World War.

One commander, General Sir John Wilsey, will be responsible for most of the Army's fighting force and all the combat equipment at home and throughout the world. He will have a budget of just under £3 billion. The restructuring of the Army, with a single Land Command, was ordered after it became clear that British troops would be increasingly home-based. With the end of the Cold War and the withdrawal of half the troops from Germany, the Army has had to face up to different priorities.

As commander-in-chief United Kingdom Land Forces, a role which will be scrapped from April 1, General Wilsey has had to save more than £9 million from his budget, after last year's Frontline First defence costs study which resulted in widespread cuts in the support services.

The new Land Command, which will be based at Erskine barracks in Britain, Germany, Nepal and Brunei, and also the training teams in Canada, Belize and Kenya.

Labour continues assault on moral high ground

Blair plans to remove incentives for solo parents

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR made another determined bid for the moral high ground last night as he made clear that a "stable and well-balanced" family with two parents was preferable to one headed by a lone mother.

In what will be seen as another attempt to steal the Tories' clothes, Mr Blair also signalled that a Labour government would remove financial incentives that favour lone parents in a bid to keep families together.

Last week the Labour leader made an equally daring foray into Tory waters with a speech presenting his party as the one of duty and responsibility. Hailing Labour as the "party of the family", Mr Blair risked alienating leftwingers by insisting that children had a much better chance in life if brought up by two parents.

Speaking yesterday at a conference on women in London, Mr Blair also made clear that New Labour had no time for "political correctness". He insisted that women's issues should not be coddled off into a special compartment. But Mr Blair indicated that a Labour government would implement policies to help working mothers. "I have no doubt that the

family is and will remain the essential foundation of a strong and stable society," Mr Blair said yesterday. It was here that children learnt the basic moral values of right and wrong, social discipline and a sense of responsibility, he said.

"It is a matter of common sense to say that a child brought up in a stable and well-balanced family is more likely to develop well than one who is not; and that it can be much harder, financially and emotionally, to bring up children alone."

Mr Blair's comments came after figures from the General Household Survey showed that the proportion of families with dependent children headed by a lone parent increased from 8 per cent in 1971 to 22 per cent in 1993.

Last July Mr Blair infuriated many Labour MPs by using a television interview to criticise single mothers who deliberately had children outside stable relationships. He insisted then that it was "best for kids to be brought up in a stable environment with two parents". Last night sources close to the Labour leader emphasised that Mr Blair had no intention of stigmatising



Tony Blair, reclaiming language of responsibility

single parents or their children.

Mr Blair also said: "I believe it speaks volumes for the intellectual arrogance of the Right through the 1980s and 1990s that they believe they have a monopoly on the language of right and wrong, duty and responsibility and that for a Labour MP to speak this language is somehow to concede political ground."

This is Labour language... These are Labour values." In his speech to a conference organised by She, Mr Blair said: "The Conservatives came to power as the 'party of the family'. But they are no more

the party of strong families than they are the party of law and order or the party of economic competence."

Mr Blair outlined areas where Labour would help working families. These included flexible benefits to get round the "absurd" situation where if a man loses his job, he loses unemployment benefit if his wife goes to work.

A Labour government would also introduce intensive training sessions for women who take career breaks.

Household survey, page 8
New Labour woman, page 10

Two-week car tax amnesty ended

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE traditional two-week amnesty after a tax disc runs out is to be ended under a clampdown on excise dodgers. An "off-road licence" costing only £5 a year has also been proposed for the owners of vintage cars and others who use their vehicles only rarely.

The Government announced yesterday that all 30 million vehicles in Britain will have to be licensed throughout the year from 1998. At present owners of vehicles kept off the road for more than a month are allowed to be unlicensed for part of the year.

Ice-cream vendors, many motor-caravanners, owners of rarely driven vintage cars, and secondhand car dealers, who currently do not need licences for their forecourt vehicles, had feared they would have to pay a full year's duty under the new system of "continuous licensing".

Yesterday, however, they learned that there will be an "off road licence" which will have only an administrative fee of £5 a year.

The proposals are aimed at clamping down on road-tax dodgers, who cost the taxpayer about £160 million a year. There are thought to be up to three million vehicles kept illegally on the roads.

The Government is also to reduce the paperwork on car sales. The buyer and seller will fill in a joint form for the licensing agency in Swansea, rather than each having to inform the agency.

Moderate teachers in class size protest

Gillian Shephard's peace offensive in schools appeared to be collapsing last night as it emerged that moderate teachers are preparing to take industrial action against classes with more than 31 pupils. The Education Secretary faces the growing threat of a revolt by the Association of Teachers and Lecturers against spending cuts in state schools. The union has taken national action only once in the past 15 years, triggering the demise of John Goss, the former Education Secretary.

The association, the most temperate classroom union and regarded by ministers as a barometer of the profession, is expected at its annual conference in Harrogate next month to authorise teachers to refuse to take classes that exceed union limits after a ballot. One third of primary classes has more than 30 pupils and the proportion is expected to climb as threatened cuts begin to bite.

Examiner too severe

Pupils at Portchester Community School, Hampshire, were denied places at sixth-form college and paid for tutors and night classes they did not need after an examiner marked their GCSE English papers too severely. All marks awarded by the anonymous examiner had to be reviewed after nearly a fifth of the school's candidates were upgraded.

IRA talks face delay

Ministerial talks with Sinn Féin were delayed last night as the Government sought fresh clarification of the Republican negotiating position after concern that Gerry Adams still intended to link the decommissioning of IRA weapons to "British demilitarisation". The Sinn Féin president had earlier indicated that he would not make such a demand.

Award for Gateshead

Gateshead has been honoured for its public art programme with an award from the National Art Collections Fund. The awards, in their ninth year, are given for outstanding achievement in the presentation and interpretation of the visual arts. Since 1986, Gateshead council has commissioned 17 works of art and there are plans for an avant-garde gallery.

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Film guide pulped after Halliwell family protests

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

UNSOLD copies of Hodder & Stoughton's new *Radio Times Film & Video Guide* are to be destroyed because parts were found to be similar to Halliwell's *Film Guide*, the film-buff's bible. Even the errors in Leslie Halliwell's guide were reproduced in the new publication.

John Walker, Editor of Halliwell's, said that some of the wording in the reviews and production details were virtually identical. Halliwell's review of *Sunstruck*, a 1972 film starring Harry Secombe, with the *Radio Times* guide. Halliwell's "A sky Welsh schoolmaster emigrates to the Australian outback. Simple-minded, uninspired, predictable family comedy for star fans." The *Radio Times* guide: "Secombe finds the perfect role

as a sky Welsh schoolmaster emigrating to the Australian outback in this simple family comedy film, mainly for his fans."

For *Walkabout*, Halliwell's 7th edition misspelt the name of the Aboriginal actor David Gulpili as Gulpilli. That spelling appears in the *Radio Times* guide.

Action was taken by HarperCollins, publishers of Halliwell's, and Ruth Halliwell and Mr Walker, the copyright owners. In settling a High Court copyright infringement action, Hodder & Stoughton, publishers of the *Radio Times Film & Video Guide*, paid "a substantial sum" in damages and costs. They pledged that booksellers will be asked to return remaining stocks of the publication, priced at £14.99, and

they will be pulped. The guide has been withdrawn until a 1996 edition.

The book was written by Derek Winser, the film reviewer for the *Radio Times* until three weeks ago. The *Radio Times* was not involved in preparing the guide and is not implicated in the copyright infringement.

Mr Walker said: "I find it extraordinary. Leslie Halliwell spent 20 years writing his renowned film guide. It is most unfair that competing film guides should benefit from all this painstaking and time-consuming work."

Martin Neild, managing director of Hodder & Stoughton, said that this was the only book they had done with the author, and it was before the current Hodder management took over.

Panorama

Continued from page 1
Roy Barber, who succeeded Mr James as chairman and asked the DTI to appoint inspectors, said he thought it "highly unlikely" that Mr Aitken would have known what was going on. Mr Aitken, whose career was nearly wrecked five months ago over claims that he lied about who paid the bill for a stay at the Ritz Hotel in Paris, began the day by putting out a statement rejecting criticism of his conduct in a report in *The Independent*.

But later, Mr James was questioned about Mr Aitken's claims that he had left the relevant board meeting before the contract was discussed and did not know that the arms were going to Iran. Mr James said: "Well, I think that's rubbish, because his name is on the minutes."

Mr James said the official destination of the arms was Singapore, but the company's directors knew where they were really going. "It was quite clearly going to Iran. It was common knowledge it was going to Iran," he said. The controversy centred on the £13 million order known as

Aitken denies arms link

Continued from page 1
pore), under which BMARC supplied components for naval guns to CIS in Singapore. Mr James told a Commons committee three years ago that Project Lisi involved the shipment of arms, ammunition and tooling to Iran, via Singapore.

In his evidence then to the Trade and Industry Select Committee, Mr James claimed that three Astra divisions traded with Iraq during the arms embargo, and spoke of pressure from investors and bankers with military and government connections, a group he dubbed "the Savoy mafia".

But Mr Aitken said he had never been briefed on Project Lisi. As far as he was concerned — and other directors of the failed company — it was a straightforward contract with a Singapore company.

"Seven years after the event, I have no recollection of ever having heard about 'Project Lisi' or read about it in company reports." But the minister's defence was shaken by Mr James in a BBC radio interview. He said Project Lisi had been discussed at a board meeting attended by Mr Ait-

Stephen Fry sued for breach of contract

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

STEPHEN FRY, who walked out of the West End play *Cell Mates*, is being sued for up to £500,000 damages by the producers, Triumph Proscenium, who accuse him of breach of contract.

Fry's solicitor said yesterday that a 15-page psychiatrist's report on his client had been given to the producers of Simon Gray's *Cell Mates* as evidence that the actor is ill. The producers, whose losses will be covered by insurance if the actor proves to have been ill, are calling for Fry to be medically examined.

A spokesman for the producers said: "Some while after Stephen Fry's disappearance it was suggested that his departure was the result of illness. This, however, has not been established."

He added that Fry's departure "had a very damaging effect on ticket sales and caused the show to close prematurely with large financial losses."

Fry's solicitor, Anthony Julius, said the producers had had for a week a full psychiatrist's report "which establishes beyond any doubt that he was and is ill and could not have continued in the play."

He added that the report was produced by an "independent, highly respected psychiatrist". The only effect of litigation will be to retard his recovery. He is unwell and receiving treatment.

Cell Mates was to have run at the Albany Theatre until May but closed last Saturday after Fry fled to Belgium.

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Crowd control was exercised by police and by men built like wardrobes; the crowd behaved itself



Reggie Kray at his twin's funeral, with "Mad" Frankie Fraser of the rival Richardson gang at his right hand

Thousands bid a grand farewell to the villain turned local hero

Continued from page 1

parlour in a Rolls-Royce shortly after the glass-fronted hearse decorated with gilt pulled up.

On the side of the leading car was Reggie's wreath, with the message "To the other half of me" boldly spelt out in white chrysanthemums. On the roof, the undertaker's men balanced a huge square wreath whose centrepiece was a rather bad painting of the twins and bearing the message: "Ron misunderstood, but simply the best," from a certain Rita. On another car, another boxing glove, this time from Durham jail, and labelled: "To Ronnie with love and affection from Linda Calvey, Tina Malloy and the girls at H wing." Calvey was jailed for life in 1991 for murdering her lover.

Crowd control was exercised partly by police, and partly by men built like wardrobes inside dark boxy suits, with close-cropped bullet heads and gold rings the size of ingots on every finger. The crowd, by now several thousand strong, behaved itself.

The dark oak coffin topped by a cross of white flowers was borne out by Charlie Kray and five other men representing what might be called areas of influence in north, south, east and west London. One was Freddie Foreman, out on parole after doing time for the Security Express robbery. It was loaded into a glass-sided Victorian-style hearse drawn by six black-plumed horses.

The cortege moved off, preceded by Paul Keys, the head undertaker, in black silk top, frock coat and rolled umbrella. Behind him, at walking pace, there followed a procession fit for a deceased monarch. First the hearse, then a blue Home Office Peugeot estate car with Reggie squeezed in the back seat between a male and female prison officer, handcuffed to the male and greeting the crowd that pressed against the car windows with his right hand. Behind Reggie stretched a line of no fewer than 26 Daimler limousines, each packed with mourners.

As the quarter-mile long procession wound its way through the crowded backstreets, it paused briefly at the bottom of Vallance Road, where Violet Kray brought up

her boys. The hearse had difficulty making its way along St Matthew's Row to the church gate, such was the press of spectators who cheered and whistled as Reggie left his car. It took 25 minutes to get the coffin out of the hearse and into a church filled with 300 mourners. Another 100 stood outside listening on a public address system.

A record of Frank Sinatra singing *My Way* was played, followed by another of Whitney Houston singing *I Will Always Love You* before the mourners themselves sang *Fight The Good Fight* and *Morning Has Broken*. The order of service bore an additional message to that of Reggie, stating that Charlie and Reg wished included in

the service "friends who cannot be here today, friends from Broadmoor and prisons... They are with us in spirit."

As the procession emerged from the church the crowd again became animated, chanting "Reggie, Reggie, free Reggie, Reggie out" and almost coming to blows in their fight for souvenir hymn sheets being handed out at the gate. Police fought to clear a path as the hearse, now draped with a new floral tribute spelling out Ronnie's self-bestowed title "The Colonel", set off on its two-hour journey to Chingford where thousands more crowded round the cemetery gates. Police and a contingent of walking wardrobes would let in only bona fide friends and mourners — and all reporters and television crews. Brother Charlie had wanted a quiet funeral; Reggie wanted, and got, the works.

Five vanloads of police lurked in the trees close to the grave as Ronnie was lowered into the earth beside his parents Charlie and Violet, and next to his sister-in-law Frances, who killed herself a year after marrying Reggie.

Within minutes of the coffin disappearing into its hole, four police motorcyclists with blue lights flashing escorted the blue Peugeot estate car at great speed out of the back gate. Reggie, on his first outing since Violet died in 1983, was on his way back to his cell, probably wondering whether, when his time came, he, too, would get the works.

Simple service with no hymns for West

By Bill Frost

FREDERICK WEST was cremated yesterday after what was described as a simple family service without hymns. The private funeral of the 53-year-old builder from Gloucester, who had been charged with 12 murders, took place at Canley crematorium, Coventry. There was only a handful of mourners, including West's son, Stephen, and daughter Mae.

The service was conducted by the Rev Robert Simpson, priest-in-charge of St Mary's in Newent, Gloucestershire, who said afterwards: "We believe in a God who receives those who turn to him in repentance."

It was announced yesterday that Detective Constable Hazel Savage, who played a leading role in the Cromwell Street murder inquiry, is to face disciplinary proceedings over an allegation that she tried to sell her story for £1 million.

Stepfather jailed for murder convinces doctors of innocence

By A Staff Reporter

A LORRY driver, who has spent his time in prison studying the human brain to prove he did not murder a disabled child, is expected to be freed by the Court of Appeal within the next two weeks after convincing doctors he could not have killed her.

Kevin Callan was jailed three years ago at Manchester Crown Court for murdering Amanda Allman, his four-year-old stepdaughter, at their home in Hyde, Greater Manchester. He was convicted mainly on the evidence of Dr Geoffrey Garrett, a Home Office pathologist, who concluded that the child, who suffered from cerebral palsy, was probably shaken to death. From his prison cell in Wakefield Prison, Callan, who left school with no qualifications, set about proving to Crown lawyers that the child's injuries were consistent with a fall and not with being shaken. Yesterday he was told that the Crown would not oppose his appeal. A hearing in the Court of Appeal will be arranged within the next two weeks.

Callan, 36, said he found the girl unconscious in the bathroom and tried to revive her with the kiss of life. He said she had fallen earlier from a



Amanda, left, and Callan, convicted of her murder



slide which may have caused two brain haemorrhages.

The girl's mother, Lesley Allman, stood by Callan and told the court that he was "a kind man" and a good father to Amanda. She was "doll-like" after her growth was hindered by cerebral palsy.

Since his imprisonment in January 1992, Callan has combed through every available medical book on the brain. He has corresponded with the world's leading neurosurgeons and by March last year two eminent neuropathologists agreed with his conclusions.

It was a report by one of these pathologists, Dr Phillip Wrightson from New Zealand, that enabled Callan to approach the Court of Appeal,

which agreed to fund another report into the case by Dr Helen Whitwell, a leading neuropathologist in this country. Leave to appeal was granted last November.

Callan's solicitor, Campbell Malone, said: "The prosecution obtained their own reports which confirmed what Mr Callan has always maintained throughout, that he had not shaken this girl to death."

"The injuries that led to her death were more likely to have been caused by direct impact and not by shaking. The explanation given by Mr Callan at the time of his arrest and trial was that the child's death had been caused by a fall and that as she suffered from cerebral palsy she was prone to falls."

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Missing man linked to fugitive

By Stewart Tandler and Mike Horsnell

THE disappearance of a south London financial adviser is being linked to John Scripps, the escaped British prisoner being held in Singapore and suspected of up to five murders.

Scotland Yard is investigating links between Scripps and Timothy McDowall, 28, a businessman, who was reported missing in Mexico or southern California in January while on holiday. Police have discovered that cash was transferred from Mr McDowall's account to a company run by Scripps in Singapore around the time Mr McDowall disappeared.

The account was in the name of John Martin, a name that Scripps has used over the years. Detectives know that Scripps was in Mexico at the end of the year and they fear Mr McDowall could have been murdered.

Scripps, 35, from Lechworth, Hertfordshire, has been charged with murdering a South African, cutting up his body and throwing it into Singapore harbour.

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Why a wayward Russian Bear put jumbo to flight

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

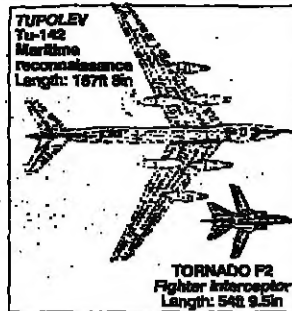
A RUSSIAN bomber with a crew who could not speak English blundered around the skies off the East Coast while helpless air traffic controllers watched as it flew worryingly close to a jumbo jet.

The giant Tupolev 142 "Bear" was one of a group of three Soviet jets on their way to the international air tattoo at Fairford. As they entered British air space last July two RAF Tornado fighters were sent to intercept and escort them into the Gloucestershire airfield.

However, according to an official Civil Aviation Authority report published yesterday, the TU 142's height varied wildly by up to 700ft. It eventually came within 500ft vertically and four miles horizontally of a Dutch Boeing 747 filled with passengers and heading for Los Angeles.

The pilot of the jumbo jet was alerted to the situation when his collision avoidance warning sounded as he climbed through 23,500ft.

The official report by the Joint Airmiss Working Group



Two RAF Tornados intercepted the Tupolev

says: "Limited English spoken by the TU 142's crew meant that all turns, climbs and descents were delayed and instructions had to be repeated several times. There was

Trident sub damaged

THE Royal Navy's first Trident ballistic missile submarine was damaged during trials in America last summer, Ministry of Defence officials disclosed yesterday (Michael Evans writes).

Part of HMS Vanguard's sonar array cable, which runs behind the 16,000-ton subma-

rine to detect other vessels, was sucked into its propulsor system.

Rear Admiral Richard Irwin, chief of the MoD's strategic systems executive, told the Commons Defence Select Committee it was impossible to guarantee the accident could not happen again.

The military air traffic controller at West Drayton "sounded concerned" as he rang the North Sea controller to ask what the Boeing 747 was doing. As the weather deteriorated the harassed con-

troller suddenly found the problem made more complex by "the unexpected appearance of a Hawk aircraft on a photographic task".

Speaking first to the Tornado, then on a different wavelength to the Russian pilot, the controller tried to talk the Bear down towards Fairford through the busy airspace linking northern Europe with the main transatlantic airway. But as they crossed the airway known as B5, their paths coincided with that of the Dutch jumbo.

Members of the working group wanted to know why the Tornado could not have done more to guide the Russian bomber away from danger. "The answer was that hand signals could be used but would not necessarily be understood," the report says.

The number of airmisses is increasing. In the four months to August last year there were 22 reported air misses involving commercial aircraft in British air space, an increase of five on the same period of 1993. Seven were categorised as risk-bearing compared with four between May and August the previous year.



Lee Ryan and his partner Karen Taylor yesterday with their children Nile, 6, left, Nadeyne, 11, and Dennis, 14

£6.5m lottery winner on theft charge

THE organisers of the National Lottery learnt yesterday just how much of a lottery life can be when the biggest jackpot winners to reveal their identities turned out to be a suspected car thief and his partner (Joe Joseph writes).

Lee Ryan, a jobless father of three who won £6.5 million on March 11 with Karen Taylor, is to stand trial in Leicester in July for alleged theft and

handling of cars. Mr Ryan, who has bought a £45,000 Jaguar, ordered a Ferrari, and moved into a new £180,000 mock-Tudor home in Leicester since his windfall, says he is innocent and will plead not guilty.

After *The Sun* had disclosed the charges against Mr Ryan, a lottery spokesman told a news conference: "Every person is innocent until proven

guilty. Everybody in this country over the age of 16 is entitled to play the lottery... all sorts of people will be winners."

Mr Ryan's barrister blocked all questions about the impending trial so journalists turned to how Mr Ryan, 32, would fill his days of leisure. As he had no job to give up, he said he would continue to write his "poetry and stuff" and might now get a book published.

Consultant censured over NHS bed hunt

By A STAFF REPORTER

A HOSPITAL consultant was censured yesterday for not doing more to find a bed for a dying man who was flown 200 miles for treatment.

An investigation has found that beds were available at two hospitals in London, where the patient had been the victim of a hit-and-run accident. Malcolm Murray, 46, went for ten hours without treatment during the search for an intensive-care bed. At least 14 hospitals are thought to have been contacted. He was flown by helicopter from south London to Leeds.

Mr Murray died the next day from brain injuries. The inquiry says that finding a bed earlier would probably not have made any difference to the clinical outcome.

South Thames Regional Health Authority says that Anthony Percy, head of accident and emergency at Queen Mary's Hospital in Sidcup, south London, where Mr Murray was originally taken, could have made a "significant difference" in the search for a bed. He was phoned at home at 2.17am and told the junior doctor on duty to try hospitals outside London.

Two beds were available at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, north London, and two became available at Brook General Hospital in Greenwich early next day. Several neurosurgery centres said they would have admitted Mr Murray.

Mr Percy said: "I am appalled at the criticism being levelled at Queen Mary's and myself. The trauma team spent almost the whole night trying to find a suitable bed and were simply unable to do so. I do not intend to take the position of a scapegoat."

Yesterday William Wells, chairman of the health authority and of the inquiry, said that Mr Percy's role was a "contributing factor". The report calls for better referral systems and communications.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ramblers denounce £8m scheme

A Government scheme to pay landowners £8 million over ten years to allow the public access to the countryside was denounced as "a scandalous rip-off" by the Ramblers' Association. The association said that almost half the 800 sites said to offer new access already had public footpaths running through them.

Stabbing charge

A girl, 17, accused of attempting to murder a store detective who was stabbed after chasing a suspected shoplifter, was remanded on bail by Cardiff magistrates.

24 injured

Twenty-four people were taken to three hospitals after a bus and a heavy goods lorry crashed in Liverpool. Most suffered minor injuries but three were detained.

Claim scheme

The Government is to introduce a scheme to speed the handling of claims for medical negligence against NHS trusts next month. Hospitals will contribute to a central fund.

Charity change

The 111-year-old Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has changed its name to Children 1st. It will keep the full title for formal purposes.

Sight tests urged

The British Medical Association called for free sight tests for the elderly to halt a rise in the number going blind because of disease.

CORRECTION

Mr Richard Wells was not Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police at the time of the Hillsborough football stadium disaster in 1989 (report March 28).

Dinosaurs found in Gobi graveyard

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A DINOSAURS' graveyard containing the well-preserved fossils of almost 200 creatures has been found in the Gobi Desert.

The animals appear to have been killed and buried by sandstorms. In an area of four square kilometres, American and Mongolian scientists have discovered not only the dinosaurs but also specimens of more than 400 mammals and lizards, and the first known skull of an extinct bird.

The site, at Ukhaa Tolgod (Brown Hills) in the south-western Gobi, contains 187 creatures from several groups of dinosaurs that appear to have died at the same moment, in poses indicating death struggles. The completeness of the skeletons indicates that they were quickly covered by sand, with minimal weathering.

Reporting the discovery in *Nature*, Dr Michael Nova-

cek of the American Museum of Natural History and colleagues say that in the Late Cretaceous period, which ended 65 million years ago, the area may have been a water hole around which animals congregated.

The small area also contains the remains of 41 horned and frilled dinosaurs known as *Protoceratops*, and 21 *Ankylosaurs*, creatures which were covered with thick armour-plating to ward off the flesh-eating dinosaurs.



Ankylosaur: desert find

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Rail Regulator abandons core stations proposal

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to cut the number of railway stations required to sell through-tickets to every destination on the network have been abandoned. The proposal created a political storm at Westminster when it emerged in January that passengers might have to travel up to 50 miles to buy a long-distance ticket from one of 294 core stations.

John Swift, the government-appointed Rail Regulator, is expected to announce next week that all 1,300 staffed British Rail stations will continue to offer the full range of tickets after privatisation. "The core station idea is dead," said one rail industry source. "John Swift had no choice but to kill it off. Even he would admit it was a mistake."

The scheme was one of three options put forward in a consultation document by Mr Swift, who is formally independent of the Government, outlining the minimum standards to be met by franchise operators after privatisation. Currently all 1,300 staffed British Rail stations, however

small or remote, can sell tickets for any final destination, regardless of the number of changes of train that a journey involves.

Under the most radical option proposed by Mr Swift, only stations in large towns and cities, main interchanges or stations serving ports or airports would have been legally obliged to sell the full range of tickets.

Rail-user groups, unions and opposition MPs joined forces in accusing the Govern-



Swift said to be left with no alternative

ment of abandoning earlier pledges that through-ticketing would be retained after privatisation.

The proposal also revived fears among Tory backbenchers that rail privatisation would turn into a political "poll-tax on wheels". Within days of the plan becoming known, Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, rejected it as "unacceptable".

The Government insisted that through-ticketing would be retained and that private-sector rail operators would develop new computer systems to make it easier for passengers to buy tickets. Ministers believe that fewer passengers will in future go to stations to buy tickets and that most will be bought over the telephone like air tickets. Roger Salmon, the rail franchise director, has already begun talks with train operators about developing a national ticket-by-phone passenger hotline.

Only a limited number of passengers would have been affected by the proposal as only about 1 per cent of rail

journeys involve using more than one line. However, the political furore caused by the through-ticketing outcry came as a deep embarrassment to Dr Mawhinney.

Michael Meacher, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said the Government had been forced into a U-turn over through-ticketing by the strength of the public reaction against Mr Swift's plans. "It is absolutely clear that there was a firm commitment by the Government to carry it out and the only reason it decided to change its mind was the political storm it created," he said. "If the Government can be forced to go against its will on this then it encourages us to fight for the abandonment of other unacceptable and unwelcome aspects of privatisation."

A spokesman for the Rail Regulator refused to confirm that the core stations plan had been ditched. He said: "Following consultation on the document we are still formulating a policy statement. There will be an announcement probably next week."



Wearing diamond, Dame Barbara shows off a diamond and aquamarine necklace

Cartland cashes in diamonds for fakes

By A STAFF REPORTER

IN A distinctly unromantic move, Dame Barbara Cartland is to sell her collection of gems because real jewellery "is impractical these days". In future she will wear imitation stones, which, she says, show up better on television.

The 93-year-old novelist, whose jewels were on display at Sotheby's in London yesterday before the sale on June 22, said: "I'm on television all day every day, and so it is much better for me to have diamonds."

"Jewellery has always been part of my life," Dame Barbara said. "I think no woman should be without it. However, nowadays there simply aren't the grand parties and besides, it's almost too dangerous to wear jewellery today. I've already had one major robbery, where a lot of very precious, sentimental pieces were stolen, so now I have decided to sell the rest."

Among the items for sale is an aquamarine and diamond set designed by Dame Barbara and valued at £30,000.

Use of slimming pills to be curbed

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

SLIMMING pills containing addictive drugs face an almost certain ban under a government clampdown announced yesterday. Health Ministers decided to curb use of the pills after reports increased of mental and physical side-effects.

The amphetamine and amphetamine-type drugs are widely prescribed by private slimming clinics to women who want to lose weight quickly. Some help to reduce the appetite, others are said to speed up the metabolism so that calories are burnt faster.

Tom Sackville, a Health Minister, said yesterday: "Some doctors who prescribe these drugs for weight loss are acting unethically. There have been reports of people being damaged mentally and physically by these drugs, which can lead to addiction and psychosis. There have also been reports of loss of hair, palpitations and other side-effects."

Last year Christine Malik, 31, died five days after she was given diuretics, appetite suppressants and hormone drugs

at a private clinic in London. An inquest was told that she died from multi-system failure, which a medical expert said on the "balance of probabilities" was brought on by the drugs.

Two years ago the General Medical Council warned doctors who prescribed large quantities of appetite suppressants that they would face disciplinary action. But hundreds of private slimming clinics have continued to hand out the pills. Patients are rarely willing to testify against doctors.

The GMC said: "There is no jurisdiction over slimming clinics. Anyone can set one up. Only when a patient complains about an individual doctor are abuses highlighted." Last year, it received 14 complaints. The British Medical Association said the drugs had "no real value" in the treatment of obesity.

The Medicines Control Agency is to consult doctors and pharmacists over the next three months before taking a final decision on the ban.

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THE TIMES DIGITAL FORUM

Surfing the superhighway

How to survive and prosper on the information superhighway

Wrist-mounted televisions, computers and telephones, fridges that will notice when we are out of milk and tell the car to buy some on the way home: this is the digital future. Nicholas Negroponte, director of MIT's Media Laboratory in Boston, will guide Times readers through the technological maze in a fascinating forum on the digital revolution and its impact on our lives to be held in London on Thursday, April 6.

The forum, which marks the publication of Professor Negroponte's latest book, *Being Digital* (Hodder & Stoughton, £12.99), will offer readers an insider's view of what it is like to live in a digital world, with universal communication available to all at the touch of a control. Professor Negroponte's talk will be followed by questions.

Chaired by John Diamond, the Times's computer guru and columnist, the forum will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, at 7.30pm.

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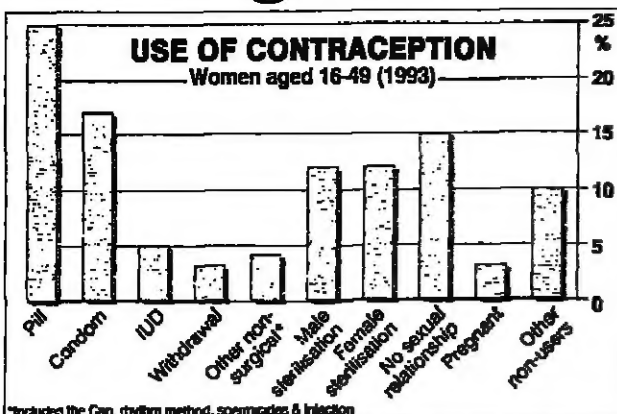
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Young forsake Pill for condom as they heed message on safe sex



By MARIANNE CURPHEY

TEENAGERS have taken heed of advice about safe sex and have changed their main method of contraception from the Pill to the condom, the latest *General Household Survey* shows.

The male condom, once used almost exclusively by couples aged 35-44, has become the most popular contraceptive among women aged 16-19, with nearly half (45 per cent) asking their partners to use it.

Since 1986, when the Health Education Authority began to warn

about the dangers of Aids, condom use among people aged 18-19 has increased from 6 to 22 per cent, the largest increase in any age group. Between 1991 and 1993 use among 16-17 year olds rose by 7 percentage points to 17 per cent.

The latest of the annual surveys by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, conducted in 1993, found that single women were far more likely than married or cohabiting women to have changed to the condom. It was used most among women employed in non-manual jobs who had been educated to A

level or above. The Pill was still the most popular form of contraception among women "at risk" of pregnancy. Its use increased slightly between 1991 and 1993, from 23 to 25 per cent. Women in their 30s were prescribed it more often than any other age group, and sterilisation of women over 30 or their partners had fallen.

A total of 17 per cent of women used the condom, 12 per cent were sterilised and 12 per cent of women's partners were sterilised. Sterilisation was more common among married women, especially those who had had children. The majority (88 per

cent) who had chosen sterilisation had been operated on as inpatients under the National Health Service.

More than 70 per cent of women aged 16-49 were using at least one method of contraception at the time of the interview; 5 per cent were trying to become pregnant and not using contraception; 15 per cent were not having a sexual relationship; and 3 per cent were pregnant.

The survey also showed that women aged 16-17 were less likely to have a partner than those aged 18-49. Those aged 45-49 were more likely to be sterile as a result of having an

operation not specifically intended to prevent pregnancy, for example a hysterectomy.

Questions about the use of emergency (postcoital) contraception were included in the annual survey for the first time in 1993. Five per cent of women had used emergency contraception between 1991-1993 and 1 per cent had used it on more than one occasion.

Usage was highest in the 18-24 age group, and most were likely to have obtained treatment from their GP. The majority had been given the "morning after" Pill.

Household survey tracks rise of the lone-parent family

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE traditional British family is in decline, both in numbers and in size, according to a survey published today. In the decade to 1993, the number of households with a married or cohabiting couple and dependent children fell from 32 per cent to 24 per cent. From 1971 to 1993, the average size of families fell from 2.91 to 2.44.

The *General Household Survey* suggests, however, that the big increase in families headed by lone parents may be over: the increase between 1991 and 1993 was 1 per cent a year. Even so, from 1973 the proportion of single-parent families almost tripled to 22 per cent.

The percentage of lone mothers with two or more dependent children stabilised at 12 per cent after more than doubling in the 20 years to 1992.

The survey will fuel the political debate about the social and economic consequences of the increase in the proportion of children in homes headed by a single parent. It found that the standard of accommodation occupied by lone-parent families was lower than that lived in by other families. The single parent was more likely to live in rented accommodation, terraced housing or purpose-built flats and less likely to have central heating.

They were also likely to be less well qualified. Thirty-eight per cent of single parents

had no qualifications compared with 25 per cent of other parents; lone mothers were less likely than other mothers to be in paid employment.

When lone mothers did work, a higher proportion were in full-time employment than married and cohabiting mothers. A much higher proportion of lone-parent families than other families had a gross weekly income of £150 or



less and 46 per cent had an income of £100 or less.

Although the average size of families fell to 2.44, Pakistani and Bangladeshi households were about twice as large as white households. Indian families averaged 3.65 persons and black Caribbeans 2.68.

Forty-six per cent of Pakistani and Bangladeshi children were under 16, compared to 29 per cent of the black Caribbeans, 30 per cent of the

Indians and 21 per cent of the white population.

The study of 18,492 people in 9,800 households in the year to March 1994 found that 19 per cent of single, widowed, divorced or separated women were cohabiting. Almost 33 per cent of unmarried men and women in their late twenties or thirties were cohabiting.

Despite these figures, more people were living alone, according to the survey. The proportion rose from 9 per cent to 14 per cent in the 20 years to 1993, when it showed signs of stabilising.

The number of people aged 16-24 living alone increased from 2 to 4 per cent, 25-44 from 2 to 8 per cent, 45-64 from 8 to 11 per cent, and 65-74 from 26 to 28 per cent. The biggest increase, from 40 to 50 per cent, was among the over-75s.

The proportion of adults with no natural teeth fell from 26 to 16 per cent between 1983 and 1993, with more than half those surveyed saying they visited their dentist regularly. Those with their own teeth were more likely to be male and living in the South of England.

There was little change in the number of people wearing glasses or contact lenses from 1977 to 1993. Sixty per cent of men and 69 per cent of women wore glasses or contact lenses.

General Household Survey 1993. (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, Stationery Office; £18.95)



Not only has the "family"—mother, father and the children—fallen in numbers over 20 years, it has also shrunk

Swimming and keep-fit set the pace

By OUR HOME CORRESPONDENT

SWIMMING, cycling, keep-fit and yoga have become more popular leisure activities in the past decade as the sporting life grips Britain.

There was a big growth in home leisure activities, such as listening to music, from 1990-1993 and book-reading increased from 62 to 65 per cent. But there was a decline in dressmaking and knitting.

Almost two thirds of adults claimed to have taken part in sport or physical exercise in the month before being interviewed. The proportion taking part in keep-fit and yoga

rose from 8.6 to 12.1 per cent, and swimming, weight-training and golf also increased in popularity. Fewer went running or played badminton, squash, snooker, billiards or darts.

Men were more likely than women to have participated in at least one sporting activity in the four weeks before the interviews. Almost 75 per cent of men claimed to have taken part in at least one sport in that period, compared with 57 per cent of women.

Sport was more popular among people who were in

work and among those in non-manual occupations. The study shows that 82 per cent of professional men and 72 per cent of professional women said that they had taken part in sport in the previous four weeks, compared with 60 per cent of unskilled men and 40 per cent of unskilled women.

Watching television remained Britain's most popular leisure activity, with 99 per cent of people viewing in the four weeks before being questioned. Ninety-six per cent had

entertained friends or relatives. Men were more likely than women to listen to the radio, records and tapes, but women were more likely than men to read a book—70 per cent against 58 per cent. Eighty per cent of professional men and 92 per cent of professional women had read a book in the previous four weeks, compared with unskilled men and women at 57 and 57 per cent respectively.

More men than women had worked in the garden or engaged in do-it-yourself.

Graduate total soars in 20 years

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE number of people educated to degree level in Britain has more than doubled in the past 20 years, from 4 to 9 per cent of the population.

The number of people gaining grades A-C at GCSE or O level rose in the 1980s from 13 to 22 per cent. It has remained relatively unchanged since. Since 1975, the number of people with A levels has risen from 4 to 12 per cent.

Young people are more likely than older people to have qualifications: 87 per cent of 20 to 29-year-olds had a qualification in 1993, compared with 40 per cent of the 60-69 age group. Overall, men were better qualified than women, especially among the over-50s, although no difference was evident between those aged under 30.

The proportion of households burgled rose from 3.5 per cent in 1991 to 4.6 per cent in 1993. The average value of goods stolen was £830, Yorkshire and Humberside had the highest rate while Wales had the lowest.

Male employment among over-16s fell from 79 to 62 per cent between 1975 and 1993. Professional men, employers and managers were less likely to be unemployed than manual unskilled workers. Employment among married mothers increased from 52 to 63 per cent between 1977 and 1993 but the proportion of single mothers who worked fell from 48 to 42 per cent.

Twice as many households had a telephone and central heating, compared with 20 years ago.



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Villagers see more shops and churches close

By IAN MURRAY COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

MORE and more village shops, post offices and churches are closing, according to a survey published today. The findings, by the Rural Development Commission, will put pressure on the Government to stem the losses when it issues a Rural White Paper later this year.

Of the 8,000 parishes surveyed, 41 per cent have no permanent shop, 43 per cent no post office and 52 per cent no school. More than 90 per cent have no bank, 83 per cent no resident GP, 71 per cent no daily bus service and only 8 per cent have any day-care facilities for the elderly.

Since the last survey, in 1991, 150 shops have closed, mostly in villages with a population of less than 1,000. A similar number of post offices has gone. No village with a population of less than 200 has a newsagent, although 86 per cent can have newspapers delivered.

Only 3 per cent of villages have a street market and 26 per cent have a permanent food shop. However, the fall in the number of shops is offset by a slight increase to 56 per cent in the proportion of villages visited by a mobile shop. The best service is provided by the milkman, who calls at 96 per cent of parishes.

The biggest decrease is in the proportion of parishes served by a resident vicar, down by more than 300 to 41 per cent. In Cornwall the figure is 7 per cent.

Almost no village with a population of less than 500 has a resident GP and visiting surgeries are available in only 15 per cent of parishes. Nine per cent of parishes have a dentist, 5 per cent an optician and 2 per cent a hospital.

The number of keep-fit classes has increased by 5 per cent and bowls clubs by 3 per cent.

Bishop calls for critical study of the Koran's origin and sources

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S first Asian diocesan bishop has called for the Koran to be subjected to critical study in the same way as Christian and Jewish scriptures.

The Right Rev Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester, says that Islam in the modern world must be more responsive to change. "An intellectual culture needs to be encouraged that will be critical in its approach to the sources of the faith," he said.

Bishop Nazir-Ali, whose family is Muslim but whose father converted to Christianity, and who holds British and Pakistani citizenship, says in a book published today that a critical approach to the Koran

would lead to an historical awareness of Islam. This should lead to an interest in the literary background to the Koran and its forms and sources, he says.

Muslims believe that the Koran, which dates from the 7th century, supersedes the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament and is the last and literal word of God to humans. It was revealed to the prophet Muhammad, an illiterate who memorised it and had it written down by scribes.

Within Islam, the Koran has rarely been subjected to the kind of study applied to the Bible, such as the "form" and "source" criticism that challenged the traditional

view that the first five books of the Bible were dictated to Moses by God on Mount Sinai.

In *Mission and Dialogue*, Bishop Nazir-Ali says it should be possible to engage in a literary-historical study of the text of the Koran without compromising the divine revelation which it is seen to mediate.

Bishop Nazir-Ali, 45, who was the Anglican Communion's youngest bishop when elevated to Raiwind in 1984, said yesterday: "I hope there is no controversy over this, but people should not be afraid to say things just because there might be."

Muslims who have tried to do this have got into trouble often. One scholar who tried it in Pakistan about 25 years ago lost his job as a result, although he became more conservative as a result of his critical work.

He said the problem with Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*, which was regarded by Muslims as blasphemous and led to a death sentence being pronounced on him by Ayatollah Khomeini, was not that it used the critical method in a work of fiction, but that it was polemical.

Bishop Nazir-Ali said: "I am not saying anything in a polemical way, but in a way to encourage dialogue."

A spokesman for the Muslim Institute said: "Individuals or groups looking at the subject critically are not a problem. Where we have a problem, and what created the problem with Salman Rushdie, is where insult is addressed against Islam and the prophet Muhammad. Anyone who is not a Muslim will not believe in the prophet Muhammad being the prophet of God."

Iqbal Sacranie, of the UK Action Committee on Islamic Affairs, said the book would need further study. *Mission and Dialogue* (SPCK; £8.99)



Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali: encouraging dialogue

Leading article, page 15

Age on safe sex

...specifically intended to prevent pregnancy, for example, by using condoms.

Questions about the use of contraceptive methods were included in the annual survey from 1991 to 1993. Five per cent of women had used emergency contraception between 1991-1993 and 1 per cent had used it on more than one occasion.

Usage was highest in the 15-24 age group, and most were likely to have obtained treatment from their GP.

The majority had been given the "morning after" pill.

Graduate total soars in 20 years

By MARGARET CONWAY

THE number of people educated to degree level in Britain has more than doubled in the past 20 years, from 4 to 9 per cent of the population.

The number of people holding grades A-C at GCSE or A level rose in the 1980s from 8 to 22 per cent. It has remained relatively unchanged since 1993. The number of people with A levels has risen from 4 to 12 per cent.

Young people are more likely than older people to have qualifications. 57 per cent of 16 to 24-year-olds had a qualification in 1993, compared with 4 per cent of the 65-69 age group. Overall, men are more qualified than women, especially among the over-40s, although no difference is evident between them up under 30.

The proportion of men with a degree rose from 5 per cent in 1973 to 14 per cent in 1993. The average salary of men with a degree was £25,000, the highest rate of any group.

Male employment rose over the last 20 years from 75 to 82 per cent between 1973 and 1993. Professional, managerial, clerical and administrative jobs are the most common. The proportion of men with a degree rose from 5 per cent in 1973 to 14 per cent in 1993. The average salary of men with a degree was £25,000, the highest rate of any group.

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...the pace of change in the economy is rapid. The pace of change in the economy is rapid. The pace of change in the economy is rapid.

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YOU CAN WITH A NISSAN

Clarke pressed to wound Labour with £10bn tax cuts

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Tory backbenchers are urging Kenneth Clarke to implement a £10 billion package of tax cuts phased in over the next three years.

At a meeting on Tuesday the Tory backbench finance committee will press the Chancellor to use the next Budget to pledge a 5p cut in the basic rate of tax.

The MPs favour putting Labour on the spot by means of a phased programme, which would run into the next Parliament. They argue that Tony Blair, the Labour leader, would then go into the next general election faced with the dilemma of whether or not he would repeal the tax cuts. The plan would also enable the Tories to reassert themselves as the tax-cutting party.

The idea, which is backed by several ministers, would be to announce a staged reduction in tax starting in April 1996. The most favoured option is a programme to reduce

the basic rate to 20p in the pound by 1998. Mr Clarke could announce a 1p cut from next April then further cuts of 2p each in the following two years, reducing the tax burden by nearly £10 billion.

MPs on the predominantly right-wing committee argue that the Chancellor will have at least £5 billion extra through economic growth and could find another £5 billion through public spending cuts.

Two other options are expected to be put to Mr Clarke on Tuesday: a one off reduction of the basic tax rate to 23p from next April with an extension of the 20p band; or a significant increase in personal allowances to take large numbers out of tax altogether.

Senior members of the backbench finance committee argue that Mr Clarke should do whatever possible to court middle England voters, the group that Labour is also working hard to attract. MPs

feel that Labour is winning the argument over excessive pay awards to top directors and that any tax package should favour less well-off groups.

"Labour is hitting home with its campaign on share options and other tax perks for the wealthy," said one committee member.

The MPs will also press Mr Clarke to take a much tougher approach to public spending, as part of a "war on waste". They will argue for a real terms cut in local government spending, with town halls given 2.5 to 3 per cent extra rather than the 3.5 per cent estimated for inflation.

John Townsend, chairman of the Tory finance committee, called last week for a "crusade against waste, overmanning and extravagance in the public sector". Mr Townsend said that the public sector should emulate the private sector during the recession, when it became leaner and fitter.

Women charmed by Blair's new party

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR set out yesterday to woo a new kind of woman voter with the aid of Tony Blair's smile, expensive mineral water and little black suits.

More than 300 people turned up to a conference entitled "What Labour will do for Women" to listen to luminaries including the Labour leader, Clare Short MP, the comedienne Jo Brand, Helena Kennedy QC and Glenys Kinnock MEP extolling the virtues of the new party for middle-class values.

Once Labour women would have come on buses with aubergine hair, having left the leotards steaming in the oven and changed their babies nappies in the aisle. These women had left their babies at home with the au pair, were nipping back to the office at lunchtime and were going past M & S to pick up some potpourri on their way home.

The event was organised by *She*, the magazine for thirtysomething women who are trying to balance a career and children while finding the perfect white shirt.

Mr Blair fell over himself to charm rows of lip-glossed chattering-class women. They clapped as he told them that a stable and well-balanced family with two parents was preferable to single mothers

and that children needed to be taught basic moral values, social discipline and a sense of responsibility.

Where old-style Labour women would have been discussing whether the family was necessary at all, the biggest cheers from this audience went to the agony aunt

Claire Rayner, who talked of families being like seeds that needed plenty of watering and Labour attention so they could put down roots.

The only two Tory MPs brave enough to face the rows of new blue Labour suits were Lady Olga Maitland and David Mellor. Lady Olga, wearing a cream bouclé suit, should have gone down perfectly but she was almost hissed off the stage.

Although these new Labour women believe in family values and laws against noisy neighbours, they are very different from their Tory counterparts. They would not be seen dead at fundraising bridge parties or pounding the streets in sensible shoes to sell pots of jam. Most had given up on the Tories. What they wanted from Labour was better nursery care and education and equal pay and they

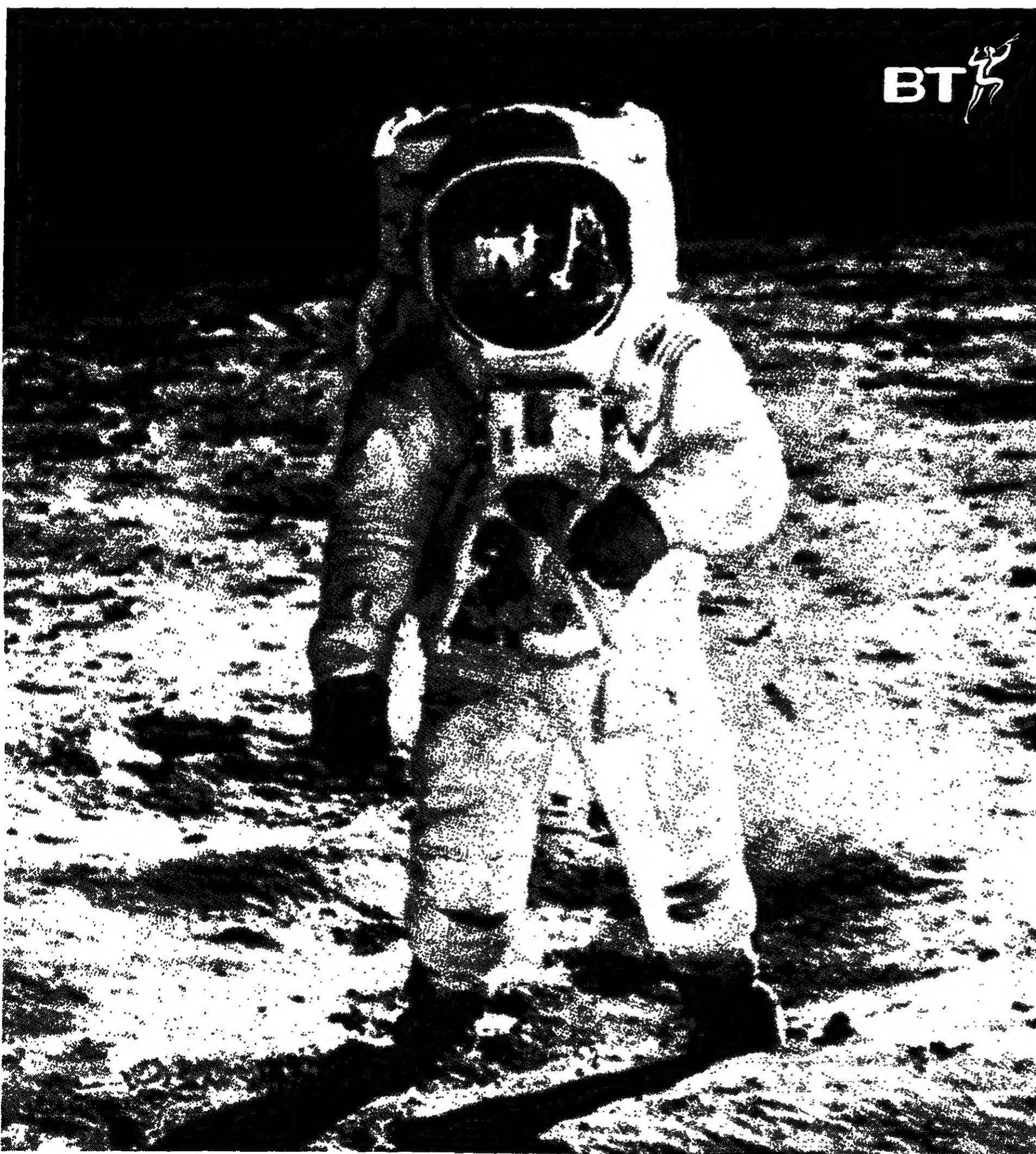
were all prepared to suffer higher taxes to get it.

Mr Mellor, looking distinctly uncomfortable fielding questions on the family, did not bother to defend men. He had done his homework and could reel off statistics about hard-done women. But most of the women were already hooked on Mr Blair. Rachel Robertson, a former Tory voter, said: "I wouldn't have voted for John Smith but Mr Blair is young, attractive and knows how to brush his hair. He epitomises true middle-class values in a way the Tories have forgotten."

Only Margaret Pictet, a stylist in advertising photography, was unimpressed. "I wish he hadn't been so patronising and just talked about the family. Most women now can assimilate economic statistics as easily as they can wash nappies."



Politics aside: Labour MP Clare Short and former Tory minister David Mellor speaking up for women yesterday



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Men hang on to Whitehall power

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN remain virtually invisible in the higher ranks of the Civil Service, despite the celebration yesterday of ten years of the Government's equal opportunities programme.

Over the past year the number of women in the top six grades increased by only one, to 1,147. Sir Robin Butler, Cabinet secretary and head of the home Civil Service, said the figures had to be seen against a decline in the total number of senior officers. Over the same period, the number of men in those grades had fallen by 300.

The figures were released yesterday as Britain's most senior women civil servants gathered in the Cabinet Office to mark the anniversary of the Government's programme. David Hunt, the Civil Service minister, admitted: "There are no grounds for complacency. There is still a long way to go." He claimed, however, that the Civil Service was making progress and that it had a better equal opportunities record than the private sector.

Sir Robin said that having less than 10 per cent of posts in the top three grades held by women was not good enough, although the figure did represent progress. Ten years ago the figure was below 5 per cent. John Major wants the

figure to reach 15 per cent by 2000. Throughout the Civil Service women represent just over half of all employees. At the first management level of executive officer, women fill 47 per cent of posts, compared with 29 per cent in 1984.

But there are few women at the top. There are just two civil servants at permanent secretary level: Valerie Strachan, chairman of the board of Customs and Excise, and Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions. There is no woman running a major Whitehall department. In the Diplomatic Service there are only three women ambassadors.

Over the past year the number of women serving as deputy secretaries decreased from ten to nine. At under-secretary level there was an increase from 46 to 48.

Women deputy secretaries with hopes of promotion to permanent secretary include Genie Turton, 49, head of the Citizen's Charter Unit, Dinah Nichols, 51, in charge of housing construction at the Department of Environment, and Jenny Bacon, 49, deputy policy director at the Health and Safety Executive.

The First Division Association of senior civil servants said that the advancement of women in the service was still "painfully slow".

Shephard refuses to finance teachers' rise

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GILLIAN SHEPHARD defied Tory calls yesterday to help education authorities to pay for teachers' rises. She insisted that councils could provide the money by cutting bureaucracy.

The Education Secretary said the Government accepted that the 2.7 per cent pay increase recommended in January should be implemented in full but it would not offer extra money. She took a hard line in the face of criticism from several Tory MPs who claim that the rise for 470,000 teachers can be paid for only

by closing schools or shedding staff.

Former Tory education ministers, including Robert Jackson (Wantage) and Alan Howarth (Stratford-on-Avon), have voiced fears over the difficulties facing education authorities over the pay deal, which will cost £270 million.

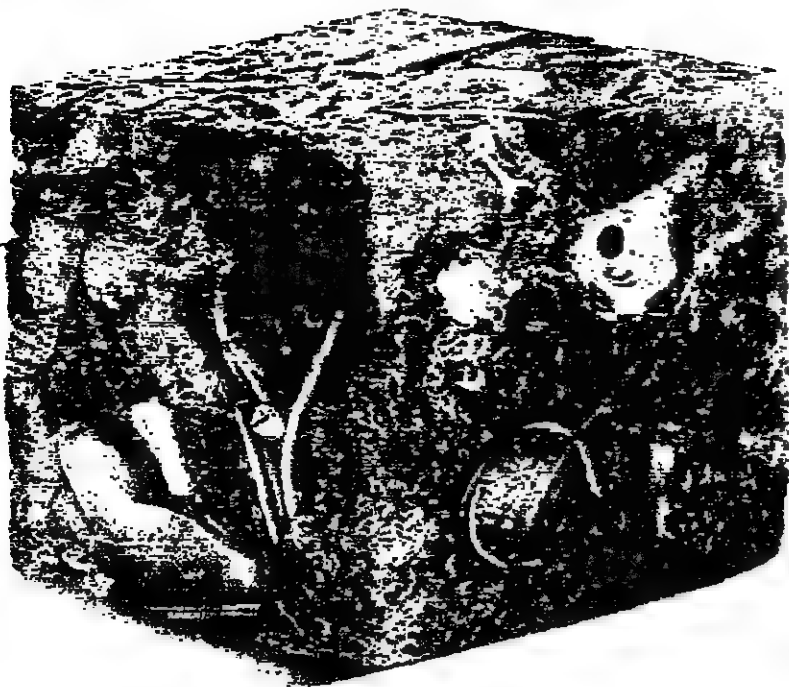
Mrs Shephard was spared backbench criticism during debate on a Labour motion calling on the Government to provide extra resources to help authorities to meet the pay award. David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, challenged Tories to force ministers to spend money on services rather than tax cuts.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: morning debates on domestic violence, the future of Guy's Hospital, the West Coast main line and climate change. At 2.30pm questions. Foreign Office ministers were followed by a Labour debate on "the impact of education cuts on standards and opportunity". In the Lords: debates on the Health Authorities Bill and the EU decision to open up the Irish Box to

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To show how well put together the new Honda Civic 5 door is, we thought we'd start with the end product and work backwards through its manufacture.

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But as you'll see, that's how we go about building cars. So, where were we?

TESTING TIMES.

Prior to the transporter bringing it to a dealer near you, the new Civic was put through its paces on Honda's very own test track.

Most manufacturers are content to use a 'rolling road' (rollers in the floor that a car's wheels spin on while it stays put).

But at Honda, the new Civic was driven out into the open air, taken down a mile of tarmac at 80 mph and then ridden across 6 types of treacherous road condition.

A SUSPENSION OF DISBELIEF.

Before that, the car had just emerged from Honda's Swindon factory - one of the most advanced in the world.

Final checks were made here on its double-wishbone suspension system - a unique feature in this class of car.

The majority of cars on the road these days are built with the McPherson Strut, a very sound and economical suspension system which is easy to manufacture and fit.

Double-wishbone is a bit of a tough cookie for designers and engineers, but it is without doubt the better system.

Slightly more expensive cars such as Mercedes, Jaguars, Lamborghinis and Ferraris all have it.

Throughout all steering conditions, double-wishbone keeps the wheels as close to upright as possible inhibiting the migration of

the roll centre' according to the boffins. In plain English, it simply holds the road better.

A TALE OF TWO ENGINES.

Going back a bit further down the line, we see the new Civic receiving its VTEC engine.

This stands for Variable valve Timing and lift Electronic Control.

The VTEC-E version - the extra 'E' stands for economy - is something really special.

It has a place in The Guinness Book of Records and is even more economical than a diesel engine.

Our rivals can read these Government figures and weep: on the urban cycle, 40.2 mpg. At 56 mph, 58.6 mpg. And at 75 mph, 43.9 mpg.

Even on the touring average, the new Civic can travel 45.7 miles on just one gallon.

The way it's able to do this without hurting performance is fiendishly clever.

At low revs the engine uses only 12 valves. But open it up and you're using all 16, as if you had a completely different beast under the bonnet.

Both economy and performance are yours.

VTEC-E is also able to use an incredibly lean air-to-petrol ratio of 22:1. So its emissions are cleaner. These engines, incidentally, are manufactured on site at Swindon. It makes for better quality control.

THE INSIDE STORY.

Before the engine, the innards. Such as double airbags, built to the reliability level NASA demands of its space shuttle equipment. And standard kit aboard every new 5 door, to boot. No other car in this class can make such a claim.

Then came the doors, already meeting the side-impact standards required by the United States in 1997. The new Civic even has a C-frame roll-bar around its hatch. A new form of moulded

construction (Honda have applied for a patent) which gives the car greater rigidity.

SMART AS PAINT.

So much for the hardware. Back we go to the paintwork. Paint baths at Honda are different kettles of fish to those of other car manufacturers.

They're built so that car bodies are immersed and rolled through 180° to completely dispel air pockets.

The tanks themselves are out-of-the-ordinary too. They're small. They fit around the car snugly, so that the electrolytic charge which bonds paint to metal is as even as can be. And the more even the charge, the better the bond.

THE BUILDING BLOCKS.

Prior to the painting, there's the putting together. Honda actually build the robots that do the building at Swindon. And one of them in particular, is something that other motor manufacturers would give their eye-teeth for.

It's called a General Welder. (One boss of a rival company even wanted his picture taken next to it, the sad man.)

The General is a mammoth robot, looking like something out of a sci-fi movie.

It makes no less than 300 welds on the new Civic's body in less than 10 seconds.

Each weld is as solid as a rock and perfectly, but perfectly aligned.

Honda engineers call this 'Repeatability of Reliability' and it's something they're very, very proud of.

What next? Well, that's it. We're back at the very beginning. Back to the metal, the wood, the plastic and the rubber. Back to the basics that all cars are made of.

Such a pity they don't all end up (this is where we came in) like the new Honda Civic 5 door.

THE STORY OF THE NEW HONDA CIVIC. (FROM END TO BEGINNING.)



THE NEW HONDA CIVIC 5 DOOR.

Men hang on!
Whitehall power

Shepherd refused
to let teachers

Farmers used by gangs to defraud EU of £800m

By MICHAEL DYNES

THE European Union was defrauded of more than £800 million last year, much of it by organised crime syndicates, the European Commission said yesterday.

The losses, which were more than double the amount in 1993, represent only the "tip of the iceberg" because many went undetected, Anita Gradin, the head of the Commission's anti-fraud unit, said.

Almost half the detected crimes were committed in the EU's agricultural sector, which accounts for about half the Union's annual £63 billion budget. Syndicates were able to choose their targets with impunity, the Commission's annual fraud report said.

"Fraudsters can almost select, à la carte, which EU legislation suits them best," Mrs Gradin said. "We just don't know if even larger amounts ended up in the wrong pockets."

Per Brix Knudsen, the Danish head of the anti-fraud unit, said that improved detection rates partly explained the increased losses. Increased activity by mafia-style syndicates played a role. "There is no doubt that there has been increased interest by organised crime in the potential to commit fraud against the EU budget," he added.

The biggest fraud concerned export subsidies for cereals and beef to bring EU prices down to world levels, pay-

ments for the storage of cereals, and support for olive oil, the report said.

Commission figures showed that Italy topped the fraud league, with more than \$740 million (£462 million) lost to fraudsters. Greece came a distant second with \$114 million, followed by Spain with \$109 million.

The report also showed that the amounts recovered were "unacceptably low". Italy, for example, had only clawed back \$7.9 million out of the \$500 million lost in agricultural fraud.

Recovering funds is mainly the responsibility of national governments, which collect tax income and import levies and also control how EU money is spent locally. "The situation in the area of recovery is not satisfactory," the anti-fraud unit said. "The Commission will, of course, undertake efforts to improve the control, but it is an area where member states have to take their own responsibilities."

Despite attempts to strengthen the Commission's anti-fraud unit, which now has 120 investigators, the recovery of funds remains dismal. Of all the frauds discovered in the first six months of last year, only 4 per cent of the money has been recovered. Moreover, no EU member has managed to recover more than 40 per cent of funds obtained fraudulently. The Commis-

sion does have the power to take action against cross-border fraud. But the main responsibility lies with national governments.

Mrs Gradin called on national administrations to increase the detection of fraud and to adopt EU-wide sanctions to regain public confidence. "The taxpayers of the European Union have to be assured that their money is not spent in a fraudulent way," she said.

She gave a warning that payments to EU countries could be frozen if significant efforts to improve the recovery rate were not made. "That is one way of doing it," she said. France, which holds the EU's six-month rotating presidency, is committed to getting agreement on fines and prison sentences for fraud.

Proposals for a new anti-fraud convention, which would lay down a common definition of fraud and uniform sanctions against fraudsters, are due to be completed before the end of the French presidency in June. There are more than 70 definitions of fraud among the EU states.

Earlier this year, the Commission threatened Greece with one of the biggest financial penalties ever handed down to force Athens to tackle the misuse of cotton subsidies. It faces a £428 million fine unless it prevents Greek farmers from filing false claims for production.



Helmut Kohl, right, applauds as Ernst Jünger is congratulated by a band leader in Saulgau, near his home

Centenarian thinker honoured by Kohl

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

ERNST JÜNGER, Germany's most controversial thinker, whose texts include a glorification of war and an attack on the Jews, from which he later distanced himself, was yesterday given a 100th birthday surprise when Helmut

Kohl, the Chancellor, and President Herzog arrived at his home in a remote south German village. Other prominent well-wishers included President Mitterrand, who penned an open letter declaring: "This is a free man... this philosopher has a lust for life that has not been dulled by time." Over the years, Herr Jünger has become accustomed to

admiration — Hitler once expressed a strong interest in meeting him, but never turned up — and his many works have drifted in and out of fashion. He is regarded as a nationalist and conservative who displays cool detachment from the modern age and totalitarian rule. He has published some 60 novels, travel books, essay collections and diaries.

Right's vision for Europe leaves Tories isolated

FROM GEORGE BROCK
IN BRUSSELS

THE isolation of British Conservatives among their allies in Europe was brutally underlined yesterday by Christian Democrats calls for the EU to unite more closely next year.

Opening speeches at a large gathering of MPs and MEPs from right-of-centre parties across Europe emphasised that the EU's 1996 inter-governmental conference to review the Maastricht treaty should mark an historic move towards deeper union. An early version of the manifesto to be sent to the 1996 negotiations between governments by the Christian Democrat bloc in the European Parliament calls for Europe-wide criminal law, majority voting on all but a few EU decisions, and power for Brussels to raise its own taxes.

Two Conservative MEPs sitting on the committee writing the document seem certain to be outvoted on many of the points they are trying to change. The final version of the paper will be agreed in November. Although MEPs are famous for making extravagant demands for giant leaps towards a federal Europe, the Parliament will be a more powerful player than in the past as the next round of negotiations over the treaty unfolds. Tory MEPs in the European Parliament are al-



Hanley: speech avoided every sensitive issue

lied to the Christian Democrats but are regularly embarrassed by differences over federalism.

The draft document currently opens with the declaration: "The European Union points the way to a united Europe. Our objective is a European federation..." The paper was produced by a group of about 20 MEPs.

Delegates listened politely to a speech by Jeremy Hanley, the Conservative Party chairman, which avoided every sensitive issue on the agenda. He said that if next year's treaty conference was to be a success, "it cannot afford to be too abstract or over-ambitious. Our theme must be of effectiveness and implementing what we have agreed, not some giant leap forward."

War booty row over Russian exhibition

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S Hermitage museum yesterday became the scene of an undignified custody battle as rival claimants fought over a collection of predominantly Impressionist art, looted by Soviet troops in Germany half a century ago.

An exhibition, which opens today at the gallery in St Petersburg, contains 74 paintings, including works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Renoir, Cézanne, Gauguin and Manet, part of a haul of art seized by Red Army brigades in 1945.

The artistic merits of the *Hidden Treasures Revealed* exhibition were eclipsed as the Russian authorities fended off allegations that they were trying to legalise the war booty.

Danielle Brabner-Smith, the daughter of Friedrich Siemens, the late German industrialist and private art collector, said that two pictures in the Hermitage were among 11 masterpieces stolen from their home in Germany.

German officials insist that Russia is obliged under the Hague conventions and a 1991 agreement to return all stolen property. The current exhibition has only a tenth of the stolen works in the Hermitage. The Pushkin Museum in Moscow has another 400.

Geese destroy Arctic wetlands as climate shift boosts flocks

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

GEESSE populations on the edge of the Arctic are booming, causing widespread devastation by turning lush sedge meadows and wetlands into lifeless mudflats, researchers said yesterday.

British and Canadian scientists are linking the boom in climate changes, which in some areas are causing ice to melt earlier than normal, allowing the geese to grub out the roots of grasses and other plants, or breed earlier.

A decline in hunting and changes in agricultural practices in the birds' staging posts and wintering homes of Canada, Europe and the United States are also providing food reserves. Recent milder winters in some countries may also be adding to the surge.

The population boom, which is likely to continue for the foreseeable future, threatens the delicate natural balance in one of the world's harshest regions. There is evidence that the salinity of the Hudson Bay area will rise as mudflats dry



Snow geese: breeding earlier and devouring more

out, allowing peat to blow away and leaving behind gravel beds.

The damage was detailed by Dr Dawn Bazely, a British scientist based at the University of York in Toronto, who has been studying the geese with Dr Bob Jefferies of the University of Toronto. The findings were disclosed at an Arctic biology conference at the University of Aberdeen.

At lower populations the geese, which include the Brent, lesser snow goose and greater snow goose, fertilise the land with their droppings. But the vast numbers are reversing any benefit.

"If you look at the greater

snow goose, the population has gone from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands. The lesser snow goose now number more than two million and are increasing at a rate of 8 per cent a year," said Dr Bazely. Some of the land could recover over several hundred years, but parts may be irreparably damaged.

The meeting was told that polar bears living on the edge of the Arctic are losing weight because the ice is melting earlier and freezing later. Polar bears hunt mainly on ice for ringed seals, whose numbers are being reduced by climate changes.

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Chirac named in housing scandal

FROM CHARLES BRENNER
IN PARIS

OPPONENTS pounced on Jacques Chirac, the French presidential front-runner, yesterday after a disclosure that he rented a luxurious Paris flat for a fraction of the market rate from a firm which runs some of the city's council housing.

In the latest sleaze allegation to taint one of the leading candidates, M Chirac, who is Mayor of Paris, was said by the *Canard Enchaîné* weekly to have organised the purchase of the flat by the SGIM company in 1990 for 12 million francs (£1.5 million). He continued to rent the 190 square metre flat, the ground floor of a villa on the Left Bank, for less than a third of its value.

M Chirac denied that he had been involved in the sale of the property, which he has occupied since 1977. However, word of his low rent and the involvement of a company partly owned by the city and the Rothschild family was potentially explosive given M Chirac's drive to depict himself as the candidate with a social conscience and defender of the homeless.

Last week, the media reported on a heavy profit made by M Chirac's wife, Bernadette, in another property deal.

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Hurd plays down Spanish talk of crisis in EU

Britain rejects call for sanctions in fish war

By GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

BRITAIN faces a conflict of loyalties at a European Union meeting in Brussels today to consider a Spanish demand for trade sanctions against Canada in the fish dispute off Newfoundland.

Spain gave a warning of a "crisis" in the EU if Britain failed to support sanctions. But a Foreign Office spokesman in London said: "There can be no question of general trade sanctions against Canada and the United Kingdom will vigorously oppose any proposals for such action."

Britain blocked the dispatch of a stiff protest note to Canada by the EU. "We objected to the tone and style of the language used which seemed more likely to inflame relations further at a time when we are trying to negotiate a solution," a British official in Brussels said.

A decision on sanctions is unlikely to be put to a vote at today's meeting, which is at ambassador level. British

officials are anyhow confident that other member states, among them Germany, Sweden, Finland and Denmark, will share Britain's reluctance to take action that would be certain to escalate the dispute with Canada.

Javier Elorza, the Spanish ambassador to the EU, yesterday denounced what he saw as a rift in the united position taken so far. He said it would be "very peculiar" if Britain was not prepared to back action against Canada for a clear breach of international law.

"If the UK does not back Spain we will take notice of that, and we will remember," Señor Elorza said. "Canada is not respecting international law. If the UK confirms its attitude, evidently we will have a crisis in the Union, because the UK will be saying..."

"We do not back you defending international law outside 200 miles, and that, I think, is very, very peculiar."

The fish dispute was touched off on March 9 when Canadian patrol vessels seized the Spanish trawler *Estai* on the high seas off Newfoundland, outside Canada's 200-mile zone. The Canadians allege that the Spanish vessel was fishing for Greenland halibut with a net mesh size much smaller than the 130mm limit set by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation.

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, declined to respond directly to Señor Elorza's remarks, opting instead for the role of honest broker. "Here is an area in the North Atlantic which has been grossly over-fished by everybody," he said. "What is needed is an agreement on the number of fish which can be caught and on the share-out. Once there is agreement on that, we need enforcement so that people do not cheat. While talks are going on... the Spaniards should not fish in waters

which are sensitive and the Canadians should not take action."

Britain believes that Spain is overplaying its hand if it imagines that the rest of the Union is eager to rush into a trade war with Canada, which is due to host the next G7 economic summit in Halifax in June.

Talks continued in Brussels yesterday between EU and Canadian officials on improving fishery controls in the north Atlantic, including better enforcement of net mesh sizes, satellite tracking of vessels, dock-side inspection of all boats, on-board observers and punishment of offenders.

Britain shares Canada's view that Spain should have no objection to observers being stationed on boats to check catches and nets. "If they are not cheating, they should not mind an observer on each ship," one official said.

Letters, page 15



Filipino soldiers inspect preserved marine turtles on a trawler at Palawan island after 62 Chinese fishermen were arrested off the disputed Spratly Islands. Four trawlers were seized, which allegedly had supplies of

Chinese trawlers seized

cyanide and hundreds of sticks of dynamite. President Ramos of the Philippines yesterday urged other nations to denounce their "de-

structive" activities in the South China Sea. The Chinese have been charged with illegal fishing and illegal possession of explosives. Pe-

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WORLD SUMMARY

Minister quits over tax revolt

Athens: Stelios Papathemelis, the Greek Public Order Minister, resigned yesterday apparently over an ongoing farmers' revolt. Sources said Mr Papathemelis disagreed with government plans to use riot police to clear national highways blocked for the past ten days by thousands of farmers who are protesting against proposed tax increases.

The farmers have set up ten major blockades and driven hundreds of tractors on to main highways and rail links and cut off Athens from the northern port of Salonika. The farmers' action has sent vegetable prices soaring and disrupted petrol supplies. (Reuters)

Africa fights to halt cattle killer

Rome: The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation has begun an emergency programme to fight bovine pleuro-pneumonia, a contagious disease that has killed 15,000 cattle in Tanzania and is threatening to spread to Zambia, Malawi and the rest of southern Africa. The organisation said that the disease, which destroys the lungs, was endangering 3 million cattle. Its programme includes vaccinations and restrictions on cattle movements. (Reuters)

Deal struck on airport

Hong Kong: Britain and China have reached agreement, after more than a year of wrangling, on the Hong Kong Airport Corporation Bill that could guarantee funding for the \$20.3 billion (£12.7 billion) project. The Bill is expected to go before the colony's Legislative Council in early May.

The airport Bill is one of several pieces of legislation that need to be put in place before borrowing for the airport and its rail links can get under way. (Reuters)

UN repatriates last Mozambican

Johannesburg: The UN, concluding the largest operation of its kind in Africa, will repatriate the last Mozambican refugees from South Africa tomorrow. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees said 1.7 million Mozambicans had been repatriated from six African nations. (Reuters)

Simpson chauffeur evidence dents alibi

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A SHADOWY figure, dark-skinned and dressed in black, crossed O.J. Simpson's garden and let himself into the former footballer's mansion late on the night Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman died, a witness says.

In testimony that may yet haunt Mr Simpson, Allan Park, a limousine chauffeur, also insisted that no white Ford Bronco was parked outside the mansion when he arrived that night to take the athlete to the airport — a flat contradiction of last month's claim by the defence's only possible alibi witness that the Bronco was parked there at the time of the murders.

The stolid, neatly dressed Mr Park broke the spell of unreality that has hung over the trial for three weeks when he went into the witness box on Tuesday. That spell was cast when Rosa Lopez, the frequently hysterical alibi witness, was allowed to give evidence about the Bronco out of turn lest she abscond to her native El Salvador.

But most theatrical of all has been the evidence of Brian "Kato" Kaelin, an aspiring actor and former long-term house guest of Mr Simpson's. Mr Kaelin began his court appearance as a key prosecution witness who could describe the suspect's mood on the evening of the murders and who heard three loud thuds outside his guest house at about the time prosecutors claim Mr Simpson was returning from the murders.

But the long-haired witness's nervous jokes and endless fidgeting — not to mention a half-nude portrait of him in this week's *New Yorker* magazine — made him the talk of America's die-hard O.J.-watchers. Pursued by young girls for autographs and television producers for guest-spots on talk shows, Mr Kaelin eclipsed the slow-burning drama of the trial.

In court, Marcia Clark, the district attorney, accused him of changing story and hedging his evidence to avoid incriminating Mr Simpson, and of exploiting the defendant's fame for his own acting career.

Mr Park's evidence brings the prosecution back to a plank of its case: that Mr Simpson's whereabouts are unaccounted for between 9.40 and 10.55pm on the night of the murders, which are alleged to have occurred about 10.15pm.



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New Bombay chief issues threat to wipe out Muslims

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIAN Muslims were stunned yesterday by the latest outpourings of Bombay's new extremist Hindu political leaders, who came to power two weeks ago with a fanatical agenda that includes mass expulsions of illegal settlers.

But Thackeray, a Hindu zealot and de facto leader of Maharashtra state, of which Bombay is the capital, said Muslims would be "wiped out" if any of them dared even to touch his hair. The warning followed an alleged death threat by telephone.

The outburst brought nationwide expressions of disgust at the growing hate campaign being waged against the one million Muslims in Bombay, which has serious implications for India's delicate religious balance.

Police have started rounding up accused Muslim settlers from Bangladesh and Pakistan, many of whom insist they are Indian citizens.

Since poor people often have no paperwork to prove their origins, they are an easy target. In the hot-house religious atmosphere created in the past fortnight by Mr Thackeray, police know they have virtual carte blanche to arrest Muslims and send them to jail as suspected illegal immigrants. They could wait for years before being tried.

Mr Thackeray, the leader of Shiv Sena, a political party with a private army of 40,000 thugs called Sainiks, set a 15-day deadline for the expulsion of Bangladeshis and Pakistanis. He said the police and his Hindu supporters should jointly launch the operation.

and urged Indian Muslims to co-operate, and gave a warning that special passes may be issued to legal residents of Maharashtra to ensure that outsiders were kept out. The moves have been interpreted by Muslims as intended to intimidate them into leaving the state.

Mr Thackeray claimed that both he and Manohar Joshi, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra — a political pawn of Mr Thackeray — had received assassination threats. He declared: "If such an attack took place, then my Shiv Sainiks would wipe them [Muslims] from the entire country. I am giving them such a directive."

It is an Indian tradition not to refer to Muslim or Hindu communities by name in any sensitive context. There has never been any doubt, however, whom Mr Thackeray is talking about when he threatens "a certain community" or

"them", Sharad Pawar, the opposition leader in Maharashtra, said Mr Thackeray's statements were directed "at one community" [Muslims] and had created an atmosphere of terror. "A fascist force is coming up," he added. "Bombayites have already paid a price with the bomb blasts" — a reference to a bombing campaign in Bombay, possibly in reprisal for the destruction of a mosque in the northern city of Ayodhya in December 1992 by Hindu extremists.

Mr Thackeray's threats were issued through Shiv Sena's newspaper, *Samna*, which he uses as a personal mouthpiece. If a Bangladeshi or Pakistani dared touch him, "they will be completely ruined", he said.

They would not even be capable of returning to their own country. "In gangrene, you need to cut off the rotten parts, but we are not going to allow another partition of this country. This is crystal clear."

Mr Thackeray, whose party shares power in Maharashtra with the hardline pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, has told Muslims to stop spilling on to the streets to pray, which, he said, held up traffic.

He has authorised police to enter mosques whenever they suspect illegal immigrants are inside. Such action could spark Hindu-Muslim riots, which would almost inevitably spread to other regions.

Sartaraz Arzoo, the editor of the Urdu-language daily, *Hindustan*, said Muslims feared police would plant weapons in mosques as an excuse to raid them and make mass arrests.



Thackeray: instructions to his private army

FBI joins hunt for killers of Aristide opponent

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

VIOLENCE is on the rise again in Haiti, only days before President Clinton is due to hand over control of the American-led forces there to the United Nations.

The latest victim, Mireille Durocher Bertin, 38, a lawyer and outspoken supporter of the military regime deposed by American troops last September, was shot as she drove down Martin Luther King Street in the centre of the capital, Port-au-Prince. The attackers, firing from a passing taxi, escaped, according to a Canadian police officer at the scene.

Her murder on Tuesday afternoon has highlighted a mounting wave of crime, denting the image of what has so far been described as a successful joint UN-US effort to build democracy in a country torn by political violence.

Human rights experts say that while the United States restored President Aristide to power, it has failed to ensure enough security for democracy to prosper. American efforts to establish a credible Haitian police force following the US invasion have failed and observers warn that the UN mission is not entering a "safe and secure environment" as required by the Security Council resolution that approved its peacekeeping role in Haiti.

The White House called the attack a "brutal act of violence", and the US Justice Department ordered FBI agents to Haiti yesterday to investigate the killing. But opponents of the US interven-



Jean Bertin, husband of Mireille Durocher Bertin, consoles the family's maid

tion blamed the killing on radical Aristide supporters and the Clinton Administration.

"There is only one person who must take responsibility for her death, and I am speaking of Bill Clinton. He is to blame for all the Haitians killed, assassinated since September 19," said Carl Dennis, a businessman with links to the former military regime. A

human rights report published yesterday blamed the current violence on a mistaken US policy of trying to create an interim Haitian police force out of the remnants of the Haitian army, instead of using untrained civilians. Although 300 of the army's worst human rights abusers have been purged, the report said that was "shockingly low" for an army

of 7,000 that was notorious for systematic abuses against civilians. In three years of military rule before Mr Aristide's return, an estimated 4,000 civilians were butchered by the Haitian army and police. A new civilian police force, currently undergoing training at a Canadian-run academy, takes over crime control in March next year.

Three die in Gaza border attack

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THREE people were killed in the Gaza Strip yesterday after a Palestinian blocked a road with his lorry and opened fire on a police vehicle escorting Jewish settlers near the settlement of Nezarim.

Two Israeli policemen and the Palestinian driver were killed and two other officers wounded after an exchange of gunfire and a collision between the two vehicles.

Israel's Army radio said the driver was angry over not getting a permit to work in Israel, which has banned tens of thousands of Gazans and severely limited vehicle access as a result of the recent spate of suicide bombings by Muslim opponents of the peace process.

The incident deepened the political crisis in Israel. More than 130 Jews have been killed since the peace accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation was signed 18 months ago. The Likud Party and other right-wing groups have railed a no confidence motion in the Government.

On Tuesday, hundreds of Palestinians demonstrated at the main Erez crossing point into Gaza over the restrictions. Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, the Palestinian Finance Minister, told the crowd: "The Palestinian Authority will not allow Israeli products to enter if Israel continues its siege on the Strip."

Gaza passports: Palestinians will start carrying passports for the first time from tomorrow week when the Palestinian Authority in Gaza begins issuing the documents to about 870,000 residents of the self-rule parts of the region and Jericho.

Gingrich faces defeat on Bill to limit terms in Congress

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

NEWT GINGRICH was facing his first big defeat last night as the House of Representatives prepared to vote down one of the most popular planks of his *Contract with America* — a constitutional amendment limiting how long congressmen may serve.

Despite delaying the vote for two weeks, the House Speaker appeared well short of the two-thirds majority he needed for passage of any of the four different versions of "term limits" on offer, and was making strenuous efforts to deflect what looked certain to be considerable public anger. Polls show three-quarters of

Americans support term limits. Twenty-two states have passed their term limit laws, though the constitutionality of these laws has yet to be determined.

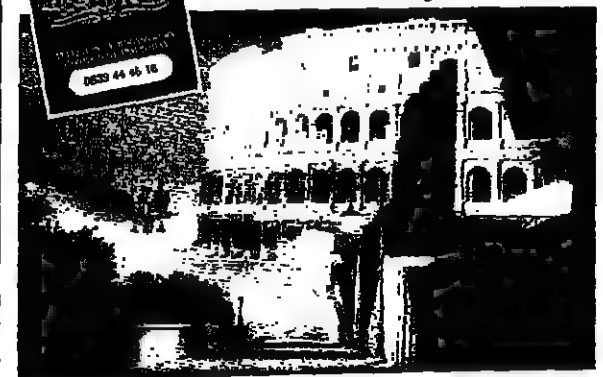
The Republican promise to limit congressional terms was one of the most attractive during last autumn's election campaign, seemingly exemplifying their determination to tear down the old "imperial Congress" that had lost touch with the people, but their enthusiasm for curbing their careers has waned in office.

Even before last night's vote, Mr Gingrich was seeking to blame the Democrats for the amendment's defeat, and promising to keep reintroducing it until it passed, but

his Republican troops were divided, too. Between 30 and 40 of the 230 House Republicans opposed term limits on principle. The rest were unable to agree whether to limit themselves to six years, 12 years or whatever their home states decreed. There was general agreement that senators should be limited to 12 years.

Term limits was the ninth of the *Contract's* ten Bills to be voted on, and would be the first to be defeated. However, the tenth, promising middle-class and business tax cuts over the next five years, is also in trouble and could be rejected. That would bring the Republican revolution's first 100 days to a less than triumphant conclusion.

THE TIMES Don't forget your passport ... you could be flying to Rome today



Splendour of Rome: the Colosseum is floodlit at night

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HOW TO ENTER

The winner of yesterday's Jordan tour was Susan Siddle, a catering assistant from Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

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The winner will be drawn from all correct answers received by the time the lines close. Normal Times Newspaper competition rules apply. Calls cost 39p a minute, cheap rate and 49p at all other times.



Algiers kills 1,300 rebels

Tunis: Members of The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), Algeria's most feared group of Muslim extremists, may have been among 1,300 rebels killed in what appears to be a huge sweep of militant strongholds. The daily *El Watan*, generally well informed on security issues, quoted what it called reliable sources as saying Djamel Zitouni, the alleged leader of the GIA, may have been killed in the government sweep. (Reuters)

Mayor on trial

Grenoble: Jacques Médecin, the former Mayor of Nice, has gone on trial for allegedly swindling the city's opera of two million francs (£250,000) after fleeing to South America four years ago. (Reuters)

Korea steps up

Paris: South Korea took another step in its 30-year rise out of poverty by formally applying to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the rich nations' club. (Reuters)

Pizza dough

New York: Donald and Ivana Trump, whose acrimonious divorce became an international soap opera, are to get a million dollars each to kiss and make up in a television advertisement for pizza.

Dire strait

Paris: Bad weather forced a French explorer, Emeric Fiset, 33, to abandon a solo attempt to cross the ice-covered Bering Strait with nine huskies from Alaska to Siberia. 40

THE HUNGRY MICROBE

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How a baby's size may indicate heart trouble in later life □ Drugs that change the shape of men □ Evening primrose oil and hot flushes



STANDARD comments such as "a chubby little fellow" or "he'll soon put on weight — it's amazing how soon they catch up" are usually better received by a recently delivered mother than the news that the baby's abdominal girth is 31.2 cm.

Few would know that this is the average girth of a baby. Mothers are mainly interested in a baby's weight, but over the years doctors and nurses have also measured length, head circumference and abdominal girth.

Recently a team led by Professor D.J.P. Barker of the MRC Environmental Epidemiology Unit at the University of Southampton has been dusting down old files dating from the 1920s and 1930s, and seeing the relevance of those far-off recordings to the baby's subsequent health as an adult.

The Southampton scientists' research has now been published in the *British Medical Journal*. The statistics suggest that there is a correlation between the size of a baby's liver, its abdominal girth

The worth of girth at birth

and the likelihood of developing coronary heart disease. The Southampton report suggests that the variations in the abdominal circumference between different babies is mainly determined by the amount of fat in the abdominal wall and the size of the child's liver.

The scientists looked at the records from the Jessop Maternity Hospital in Sheffield of male babies born between 1922 and 1930. The survey found that major risk factors for coronary heart disease were: total serum blood cholesterol levels; the level of the more dangerous cho-



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

lesterol (the low-density lipoprotein); and the fibrinogen level. These were all higher in those patients who, as newborn babies, had been thin, and presumably in many cases had a small liver.

It seems that if in the later stages of pregnancy the mother is undernourished, the baby's brain is favoured as regards nourishment, to the detriment of the abdominal organs. If the liver is deprived when the child is in utero, the production and regulation of the serum fats and fibrinogen may be disturbed, and may never recover. The South-

ampton investigations have shown that these changes in cholesterol levels are reflected in an increased death rate from coronary thrombosis later.

The baby's abdominal girth has to be just the right size; too large a liver at birth may also be associated with heart disease in adult life. In these cases the liver may have become enlarged, and damaged, by excessive deposition of glycogen before birth.

Some of the seeds of heart disease can, it seems, be sown long before the victim is able to indulge any fondness for glutinous, sloth, tobacco or too much alcohol.

Sea change

THE seaside is a social nightmare for those ashamed of their physique, or worried about their acne. A new group can now be added to the number who avoid public exposure: the increasing number of men growing breasts as a result of medical treatment. The size of

male breasts is probably usually genetically determined and hereditary. Abnormal enlargement of the breast may be the result either of increased fat deposits or of an increase in true breast tissue. In the latter case, the condition is known as gynaecomastia. A common cause is consumption of too much alcohol over a long period, after which changes in the liver are followed by an excess of circulating female hormones that gives rise to over-red palms of the hands and soles, shrinking genitalia and large breasts.

Many modern drugs can, in some cases, cause gynaecomastia. They range from some tranquilisers and anti-depressants to drugs used in the treatment of heart disease and high blood pressure, and a few rare antibiotics.

Investigations in Britain, conducted by Boston University, have recently been reported in the *BMJ*. They compare the number of cases of gynaecomastia in 81,535 men between the ages of 25 and 84 who had received cimetidine, omeprazole, misoprostol and ranitidine. The study shows that only cimetidine of the ulcer-healing drugs is associated with an appreciable risk of inducing gynaecomastia. Even so, only about 0.8 per cent of men who took the drug suffered gynaecomastia.

Experimental work had already shown that though cimetidine increased the levels of circulating oestradiol, a female hormone, neither ranitidine nor omeprazole had this effect. Cimetidine is available under several brand names. The best-known is Tagamet. Ranitidine is marketed as Zantac and omeprazole as Losec.

Hot spot

GAMOLENIC acid (evening primrose oil) is becoming a common constituent in many people's bathroom cupboards. It has a reputation for reducing breast pain in women as well as being beneficial in skin diseases, and many other diverse complaints in patients of both sexes. As a natural product, evening primrose oil starts with an advantage, and it has been shown to be largely free

of side-effects, although the occasional patient may suffer slight nausea or headaches. Keele University, the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine in London and Scotia Pharmaceuticals have recently carried out a trial of gamolenic acid for patients suffering from menopausal hot flushes. Fifty-six women who were suffering at least three severe hot flushes a day were randomly selected, and given four capsules daily, all containing either evening primrose oil with vitamin E, or nothing more therapeutic than liquid paraffin.

The result showed that evening primrose oil is not an effective way of treating the 50 per cent of menopausal women who suffer from severe hot flushes. Apart from some minimal reduction in the number of night-time attacks, the patients taking gamolenic acid fared no better than those swallowing liquid paraffin. There are many women for whom HRT, the obvious answer to menopausal troubles, is contra-indicated for medical reasons, and others who are reluctant to take it; but evening primrose does not seem to be a suitable alternative.

Mother's battle of the bulge

Dr James Le Fanu challenges a biologist's claims that conflict rather than harmony reigns in the womb

Thanks to ultrasound the development of a foetus in its mother's womb can be observed virtually from the beginning, and it has become clear that the foetus is not just growing, but orchestrating the physiological changes in its mother that allow it to do so.

This process starts right from the moment of fertilisation. Then the conceptus, still little more than a few undifferentiated cells, secretes the hormone HCG which maintains the secretion of progesterone by the ovary. This prevents menstruation, so the lining of the womb, or endometrium, is kept ready

for implantation. As soon as implantation occurs the embryo secretes another hormone which encourages the endometrium to become richer with the nutrients and blood vessels necessary for its growth.

The foetal placenta which attaches itself to the wall of the uterus is the means through which the foetus will obtain all the energy and nutrients it requires. But the placenta is much more than a communication channel, it is a factory producing enormous quantities of hormones which pass into the mother's circulation. The most important of these is oestrogen, which encour-



A human foetus at about four months: some scientists believe it is locked in a genetic competition with its mother

ages the uterus to grow to a capacity 1,000 times greater than in the non-pregnant state, stimulates the milk-producing cells of the breast, and increases the amount of blood circulating in the veins

and arteries by 50 per cent. Then there is human placental lactogen, or HPL, which mobilises free fatty acids from the mother's fat stores to provide the energy for the foetus to grow, and increases

the amount of insulin secreted from the mother's pancreas. This in turn boosts amino acids, the building blocks of foetal tissues.

The precise details of these and many other foetal influences on the mother fill chapters of modern textbooks of obstetrics, but the general impression is of a mysterious symbiotic relationship, in which mother and foetus conspire to realise the outcome that is so clearly desirable for both — the birth of a normal healthy baby.

Next Monday a contrary view will be proposed in a *Horizon* documentary (BBC2, 8pm) devoted to Harvard biologist David Haig. Rather than a harmonious relationship between mother and foetus, Dr Haig sees conflict — a struggle between the interests of the genes of the foetus and those of the mother.

"Foetal genes are selected to increase the transfer of nutrients to the foetus, and maternal genes are selected to limit that transfer," Dr Haig writes in *The Quarterly Review of Biology*. "Thus a process of evolutionary escalation is predicted in which foetal actions are opposed by maternal countermeasures."

Dr Haig elaborates his theory to explain the two main complications of pregnancy — diabetes and raised blood pressure. Influenced by HPL from the placenta, the maternal metabolism of glucose increases during pregnancy to provide the energy for the foetus to grow. This in turn increases the mother's requirements for insulin, to keep the glucose levels in her own blood within normal limits. If the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas are unable to deliver, her blood sugar rises, resulting in diabetes.

Similarly the maternal blood pressure influences the perfusion of the placenta, and Dr Haig postulates that the foetal cells, to improve their chances of survival, secrete a substance to boost the mother's blood pressure. This may lead to the condition of pre-eclampsia which damages the mother's kidneys and can, if untreated, result in convulsions and death.

This evidence of conflict might just as readily be explained as an unfortunate failure of the complex homeostatic adjustments the mother has to make to protect the survival of the baby. Indeed, it is difficult to see how the foetal genes are pursuing their self-interest by generating conflict that results in conditions which, before modern medicine, were likely to lead to its own death, if not its mother's. But Dr Haig's theory does

highlight the most remarkable phenomenon in human reproductive biology. Theoretically the mother should reject the foetus because it is genetically different: just as she would reject a transplanted organ. She does not do so, however, because the cells of the placenta are unique in not expressing on their surface the antigens which the mother's immune system would interpret as foreign. The foetus is immunologically "invisible".

In evolutionary terms this could be interpreted as evidence of a successful adaptation by which the "selfish" genes of the foetus ensure their own continued propagation — but it might more appropriately be described as a miracle.

Population mix theory gains ground

Is leukaemia infectious?

Some ideas catch the public imagination so powerfully that they acquire a life of their own, even when the evidence no longer favours them. One such is the theory that radiation from nuclear plants is responsible for clusters of leukaemia cases among children living in the neighbourhood. Initially persuasive, the grounds for believing this have been steadily eroded by the work of Dr Leo Kinlen of the Cancer Research Campaign's Epidemiology Unit in Oxford.

His latest paper, published in last week's *British Medical Journal*, greatly strengthens the hypothesis that leukaemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma are in fact infectious diseases, unconnected with radiation. What the infective agent is remains unknown: but the pattern of the disease uncovered by Dr Kinlen and his colleagues seems to fit only with that explanation.

Dr Kinlen has examined large rural construction sites, such as oil refineries and fossil fuel power stations, built by workers who moved into the area from outside. His belief is that it is the mixing of populations caused by such movements that transfers the infective agent from infected to susceptible individuals.

Clearly, since leukaemia is a rare condition, many people must carry the agent without coming to any harm. But if the opportunity arises for it to spread to others who lack resistance, particularly children, then clusters are likely in places where populations

from different areas and social classes mix.

The latest data come from power station projects including the Drax plant in Yorkshire and Fawley in Hampshire, and other big construction projects in Wales and Scotland. In the area of each project, the numbers of cases recorded in children up to the age of 14 were compared with the number expected.

The results show that these non-nuclear sites suffered the same excess of cases as did the big nuclear site at Sellafield. Overall, the ratio of observed to expected cases in Sellafield is 1.7:1, almost exactly the same as that for the other projects. The ratio is larger when operation of the plant overlapped with its construction, and larger, too, among higher social classes.

This may explain the particular case of Seascale, a village favoured by many middle-class Sellafield staff, where there have been about ten times as many cases as expected. Seascale has seen a tremendous movement of population to and fro, creating a steady re-supply of susceptible children. "I have now done ten studies showing the same thing," says Dr Kinlen. "I feel like the 19th-century epidemiologists who showed that diseases like measles and mumps were catching, without knowing what actually caused them. It's over to the microbiologists — or more likely, the virologists."

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Our favourite Yank

Joanna Pitman talks to America's former Ambassador about why he decided to stay in Britain

The Seitz appreciation society will be delighted to hear that Britain is, after all, going to keep Raymond Seitz for a few years more. As American exports go, he is surely up there alongside Coca-Cola and it was with open reluctance that we had resigned ourselves to releasing one of the most popular and effective American Ambassadors to the Court of St James's to return to some high-altitude throne on American soil.

Now he has decided to stay on in London, after all. On April 10 he will take up office as a London-based senior managing director of Lehmann Brothers' European investment banking division.

But we should not, he points out, with an unmistakably British brand of needling humour, flatter ourselves that his decision has been made as a result of an overbearing love for Britain. "I've always been very leery on the question of staying just because I like the place so much. The decision has not been easy."

"It was a big move to leave the foreign service which I liked very much, but the move into international finance was not designed in order for us to be able to stay in Britain. It is simply a happy coincidence. I have always been attracted to international finance."

The London surroundings will undoubtedly add to his enjoyment of the new post. "I do love London and there are an awful lot of interesting people here, which makes the place immensely attractive." But he is adamant that he has not acquired anything so vulgar as "British instincts". He recoils at the prospect as if I have slapped him in the face with a slab of Yorkshire pudding. "I think I would have had to be medically evacuated by now if that were the case," he snorts with his roaring, patrician heehaw of a laugh.

Seitz knows that he will continue to be made very

welcome indeed in London. And rightly so, for his ambassadorship has been a class act that has furnished him with a wide range of contacts, friends and admirers. He has spent a total of 13 years in London covering three tours of duty, including an unprecedented extension in 1993 — encouraged by subtle prodding from the Foreign Office and not so subtle clamouring from the British media — into a second term as Ambassador, in spite of the American tradition of replacing key envoys with each new administration.

He has the reputation — rare in Britain — as an intelligent interpreter "from the other side" of the Anglo-American alliance. He has had no trouble distinguishing himself from previous occupants of the post, almost all of whom were appointed as reward for generous donations to political arsenals.

During an era of Anglo-American relations that has traced a vertiginous progression of leaps through high point and low, and has wobbled much in between, he has brought to the role the kind of dedicated passion and wisdom that a fighting parson might bring to a war for liberty.

There was a constructive savagery in his relations with his former employers. When President Bush made a fool of himself trying to appoint a discredited crony as Secretary for Defence, Seitz astonished guests at an official lunch with a series of jokes at the expense of the President, designed to deflect the perceived shame thrust upon America.

When President Clinton was careering down a path of self-ridicule with vague, ambiguous and at times patently confused foreign policy statements, Seitz was prepared to voice open rebukes. But his coolest and most devastating thrust came with the comment "we seem incapable of establishing what our interest is". The nadir of his ambassador-



Raymond Seitz: "An awful lot of interesting people here — the place is immensely attractive"

ship came when Clinton decided to waive the ban on Gerry Adams visiting the United States. Seitz managed this disaster with customary dignity but, as he says now, "I think my opinion on the matter was written all over my face."

Seitz is a diplomat to his very fingertips. Born in Honolulu in 1940, his future as a promoter of the Atlantic Alliance came naturally, almost automatically, as a consequence of his family's history. "My father commanded one of the American regiments that landed on Omaha beach on D-Day," he says. And 15 years later the young Raymond visited

the coastline and the cemeteries of the battlefield and acquired an unabashed devotion to Anglo-American romanticism. (The flag of his father's regiment stood on his desk throughout his time at the embassy.)

After a smooth transition from Yale into the foreign service in 1966, he swept through the ranks, being posted early on to Montreal, Nairobi and Zaire and then taking up his first post in London in 1975. "The high point of my time in London — I know it sounds awfully esoteric — was, I think, the difficult decision in 1982-84 which led to short-range nuclear missiles being recalled. This made

a big difference in the way the transatlantic alliance was viewed and I think it was right and important and hastened the end of the Cold War." Still only 54, Seitz's face is long, his forehead high and smooth, his demeanour high-bred. No longer required to perform the nimble juggling of diplomacy, you get the sense that he relishes the prospect of hand-to-hand fighting in the jungle of investment banking. Although he would never say so, I had the impression that for him and his wife the prospect of being sent back to America now, having made so many British friends and contacts, would not quite be cricket.

Margot Norman peers through a glass ceiling

Can't women make it in Whitehall?

When Jennifer Forsyth joined the Civil Service in 1945, there were more women heading government departments than there are now. Miss Forsyth, who reached the level of Under-Secretary at the Department of Transport before retiring and becoming a Labour councillor in Kensington and Chelsea, remembers Mary Smeaton as Permanent Secretary at Education. Muriel Riddell was at the then DHSS and, of course, the redoubtable Dame Evelyn Sharp was at Housing and Local Government. There was also Elsie Abbott as Deputy Secretary at the Treasury.

Now, after ten years of active encouragement and monitoring of women's progress up through the ranks, the Civil Service can point to only one woman who has made it to permanent secretary. This is Valerie Strachan who, as head of Customs and Excise, has an important job but not one regarded as one of the service's real plums. (At yesterday's press conference the Civil Service also claimed the Director of Public Prosecutions, Barbara Mills, whose position holds permanent secretary rank, but this is disingenuous, since she made her way to the top as a barrister before becoming a civil servant.)

"Evelyn Sharp was a role model for us all," says Miss Forsyth. "The Civil Service was rightfully proud of her: if anyone criticised their treatment of women they would point to her." She was a highly visible role model too: in 1961 the *Daily Mail* ran a banner headline asking "The dame — is she Britain's most powerful woman?"

Richard Crossman portrayed her in his diaries as a dragon. "Wanting improvement and social justice quite passionately and yet a tremendous patrician and utterly contemptuous and arrogant... She sees the ordinary human being as incapable of making a sensible decision."

Dame Evelyn, who was made a baroness, hit back at

her former minister in public. In her, career-minded young women could clearly see the possibility of achieving power and influence through the Civil Service. So why, after all these years, have more of them not done so? Jennifer Forsyth remembers they prospects changing sharply as men returning from the war entered the Civil Service and, in effect, elbowed the women out of the way. "It became



Dame Evelyn Sharp. Daughter of an Ealing vicar, and the highest paid woman in the Civil Service, is to be a Deputy Secretary of Local Government and Planning. Her salary is £25,260 a year, times 14.2.51.

very male dominated — one had to button one's lip when one found oneself working under less able men."

But since 1989, when Dame Anne Mueller as Second Permanent Secretary at the Treasury (the only woman of that rank at the time) published her report *Alternative Working Patterns* and introduced part-time working, job-sharing and a whole collection of new arrangements designed to help women civil servants rise, the Civil Service has been regarded as a model of family-friendliness in comparison with the private sector.

Yet the proportion of 10 per cent of women in the top three grades has not shifted since 1989. Twice as many women as men were resign-

ing ten years ago, and the proportion had still not dropped greatly. Anne Mueller points to the senior women about to break through to the top level — Anne Bowtell, for example, who has brought up four children and will become Permanent Secretary at Health — and says it is all a matter of time. "It takes 30 years to work your way up the ladder, so it's a question of waiting a bit longer. The main obstacles to women's promotion have definitely now been removed."

Kate Jenkins left the Civil Service after 20 years because, like many civil servants who saw the way the Tory wind was blowing in the 1980s, she wanted management experience. As head of the Prime Minister's efficiency unit she had, however, been chief architect of the policy of creating quasi-autonomous government agencies, in which several women now hold chief executive posts. She is surprised, and concerned, that there are still so few female permanent and deputy secretaries.

In fact, the proliferation of agencies has made promotion prospects worse for civil servants of both sexes, simply because the jobs are advertised and are open to private sector people. Jo Ouston, a career development consultant, detects a lot of unwarranted anti-Civil Service prejudice. "The Civil Service is doing its best," she says, "but it has contracted so sharply that there just aren't the interesting jobs available for its brightest people to do."

"Not untypical is one high-flier in her thirties at the Overseas Development Agency, for whom there simply wasn't a suitable job, so the Department let her go to the European Commission and will have her back without loss of seniority for up to five years. There is simply a promotion log-jam, and it is hitting the very high-grade people who, had they chosen the private sector would have had great careers."

Julia Llewellyn Smith on marriage Hollywood-style

Hello! and goodbye

Marriages made in Hollywood conform to the simplest rules of scriptwriting: they all have a beginning, a middle and, inevitably, an end. Yesterday, Julia Roberts and Lyle Lovett

became the latest Tinseltown couple to issue a statement which waffles on about remaining "close and in great support of each other". In other words, after less than two years of marriage, they are legally separating.

Movie stars and monogamy go together like cornflakes and Tabasco. In the past year we have endured the splits of Richard Gere and Cindy Crawford, Roseanne and Tom Arnold, Billy Joel and Christie Brinkley. But as the Royal Family know you should get straight back on a horse after a fall, most of them have already returned to the register office, vowing that this time it is for ever.

It is not as if the Pretty Woman and her ugly country-and-western singing husband will be wondering how they will ever get used to sleeping alone. In their 21 months of marriage, the couple barely saw each other and were usually working thousands of miles apart.

Such stories are rarely greeted with sobers. We know that these sacrifices are the downside of multi-million dollar contracts. More importantly, we suspect that such unions had little to do with passion in the first place, and everything to do with magazine covers and improved ratings.

In Hollywood, a marriage is not for life, but until you find a new agent: a celebrity spouse is just as much of an accessory as a Prada handbag, to be discarded with each new season.

"This is the only place in the world where an amicable divorce means that each gets 50

per cent of the publicity," said Lauren Bacall.

None of these stars are on the headline, yet they still seem compelled to exploit their so-called heartbreak. On Saturday night, America will be treated to the multi-millionaire Donald Trump and his acrimonious ex-wife, Ivana. Kissing and making up on television in an advertisement for Pizza Hut, for which they were paid \$1 million each. "You just can't turn down that kind of money," he said.

A price cannot be put on a reputation, however, as Michael Jackson discovered when rumours began about his sexuality. The gossip mill was silenced when he "secretly" married Elvis's daughter Lisa Marie. The ring was scarcely on her finger before divorce talk began, but no matter — the damage had been limited. Crawford and Gere have never been able to quash rumours about their preferences.

Hollywood has always been a hall of mirrors. Long before the birth of *Hello!* magazine's showbiz "happy couples" profiles, studios realised the value of "lavender marriages".

The homosexual heart-throb Rudolph Valentino, one of the earliest screen idols of the 1920s, married the lesbian Jean Adger. Greta Garbo, Tallulah Bankhead, Charles Laughton, Cary Grant, Montgomery Clift, James Dean and Anthony Perkins were some of the idols who chose marriage to hide their sexuality or promiscuity. The public may not have been convinced, but reputations were saved.



Lyle Lovett and Julia Roberts: barely saw each other

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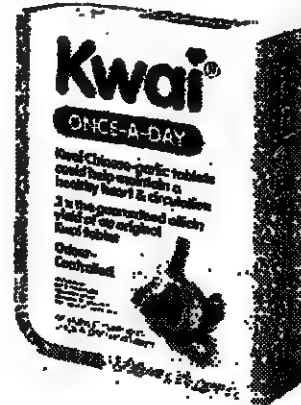
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Janet Daley



■ Labour is bound to be disingenuous about law and order. But Tory whining will not win the debate

I never expected to find myself agreeing with Edward Heath. But I gave a half-hearted cheer when he told the Government to "Shut up about the BBC... and get down to the brass tacks of answering the points which have been made". Half-hearted because I see little sign that this Cabinet is capable of recognising a political advantage when it jumps into its lap. For example: the Shadow Home Secretary, Jack Straw, staged a press conference in which he offered up as news some reworded "shock" statistics about crime. Homeowners have a one in 11 chance of being burgled in a year and there is a one in 64 chance of becoming a victim of violent crime. The chances of your car or its contents being stolen are one in five, bludgeoned by a criminal, one in 100, and the chances of your house being burgled are one in 100. The punchline was that crime had got much worse under the Tories.

Not only is there nothing new in these figures but in presenting them, Mr Straw used the scaremongering tactic that is often criticised by the Left when it has its other — The Crime Wave is a Myth — hat on. That is, he confounded property crime with personal violence, thus making people feel at more physical risk than they actually are. This is the sort of cheap thing that parties in Opposition do in the run-up to elections. And the media cannot ignore them.

If they did, they would be justly accused of taking their news pegs only from the Government.

So, presented with this well-publicised soft target by the Opposition, what do the Tories do? They shriek at the BBC for giving it too much coverage. What they might have done instead was to regard the prominence given to this non-story as a gift. It could have licensed them to tear into the real history of rising crime in this country and to trace it back to Labour policies. Had they been interested in countering the substance of Jack Straw's case instead of indulging in another self-playing whinge about the BBC, they might have won a round in a genuine debate about the decline of law and order.

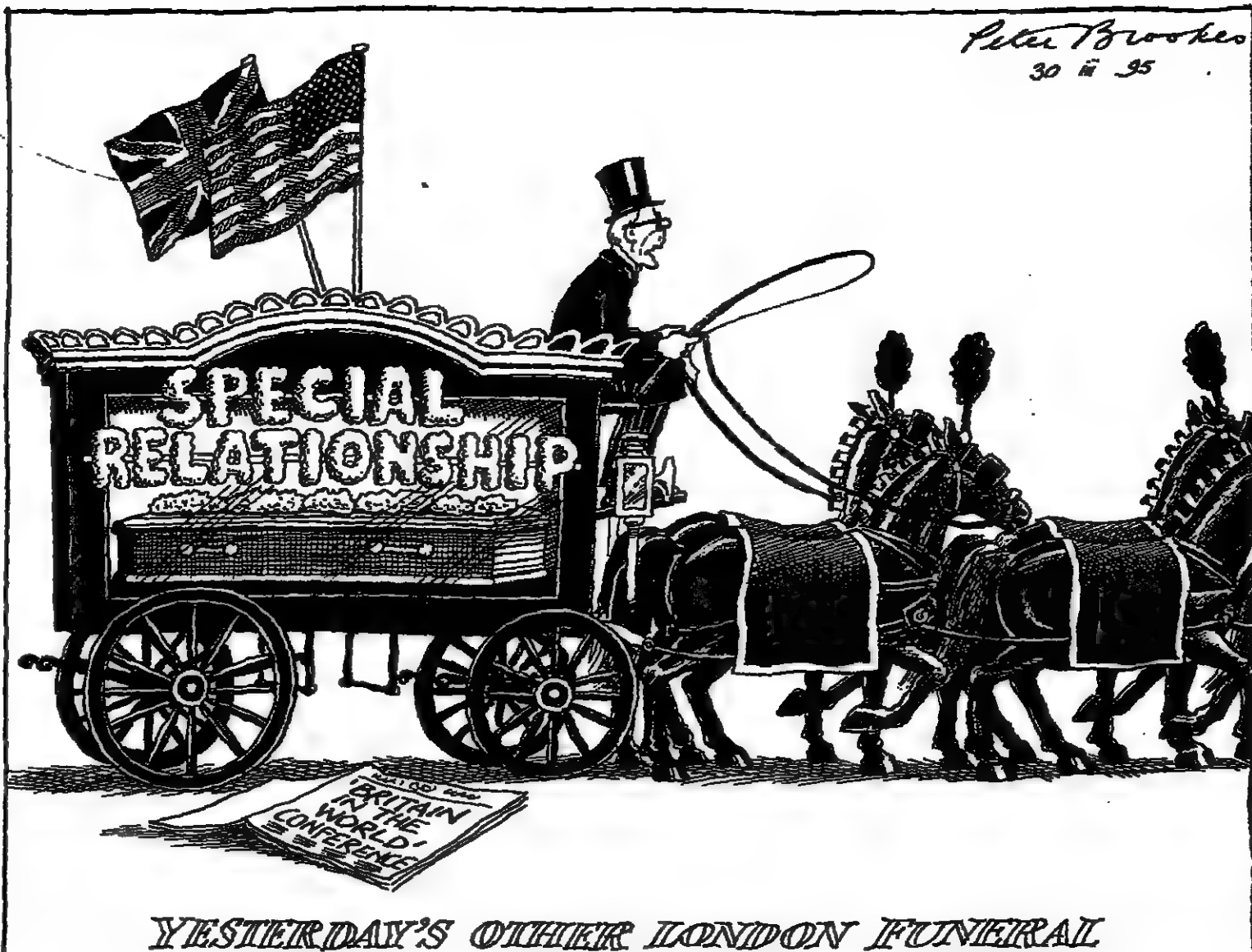
Labour seems to have two grounds for blaming rising crime on the Tories. One is the historical fact that they happen to have been in power for the past 15 years, during which crime has escalated (or "soared out of control" as politicians put it, when it suits them). But that is only to say that they have been in office for the latter half of the period in which crime has exponentially increased. The dramatic upward curve in the crime figures began in the 1960s and has been rising more or less inexorably ever since. This trajectory has been largely unaffected by the changes in political complexion of the governments

in power during that time. It is almost certainly a safe assumption that whoever had held office during the last decade and a half would have been lumbered with the same dire record on law and order.

The other basis for the charge that the Tories have actively made crime worse, is more theological: by encouraging greed and increasing unemployment, they have produced a more unequal and immoral society. People who are robbed of economic hope and at the same time exposed to mass acquisitiveness are more likely to resort to crime. But another way of seeing the social changes of the past 15 years is that most people in society have been able to purchase the kind of consumer durables which thieves covet — because a great many people have become much more affluent. Those who have not feel alienated precisely because they are a shrinking minority. The possibility of accumulating valuable private goods has been extended much more widely in Britain than ever before, which gives more scope for property crime, particularly in working-class areas. As a taxi driver from the East End once said to me: "People say they used to be able to leave their doors unlocked. They forget that then they didn't have anything worth stealing."

As everyone — even Jack Straw — admits, crime is largely an inner-city problem. And who made the inner cities what they are? Which party in local government drove out middle-class homeowners by insisting that they subsidise council estates where rent defaulters were never pursued? Which councils pushed up rates to levels that drove businesses out of its areas, thus ruining local employment prospects? Labour, of course. And it was Labour who supported teaching unions when they dismantled literature education and pulled out of super-vising the after-school activities that used to keep wayward children off the streets. And Labour councils who often banned policemen from coming into schools to talk to children.

The inner cities have been Labour strongholds for a generation. It was Labour education and housing policies which turned them from vibrant mixed communities into one-class ghettos from which anyone with aspirations sought escape — leaving the schools and the housing to deteriorate. And guilt itself was nearly defined out of existence by an army of probation officers and social workers who are all part of Labour's natural constituency. That is what the Government would say, if it were not brain-dead.



YESTERDAY'S OTHER LONDON FUNERAL

Sitting in judgment

Michelangelo's painting in the Sistine Chapel may reflect his private hell

On October 12, 1534, Alexander Farnese, the Dean of the College of Cardinals, was elected Pope and took the name of Paul III. It was one of the shortest conclaves on record, the proceedings being completed inside a single day. Paul III had already been a Cardinal for 40 years; he was 66 and seemed to be in frail health. It was said that "ambitious cardinals expected that his reign could not be long before he made way for one of them". In fact he reigned until 1549, and was the Pope who formulated the main counter-Reformation policy. He called the Council of Trent; he excommunicated King Henry VIII; he restored the prosperity of Rome after the sack by the Emperor's troops in 1527; he authorised the foundation of the Jesuits.

Paul III was also one of the greatest patrons of Michelangelo. He employed him as an architect on the Palazzo Farnese, and commissioned him to paint the *Last Judgment* on the altar wall of the Sistine Chapel. Last weekend I was in Rome for Margaret Thatcher's opening of the Eden Hotel, which has been refurbished by Forte. A small group of us were given the privilege of a private visit to the Sistine Chapel.

Viewing the chapel in a small group does remove one of the difficulties in the way of appreciating it. Others remain. Generations of tourists have found it hard to see the ceiling without getting a crick in the neck. The cleaning has greatly enhanced the painting; one used to see dark forms behind the discoloured varnish. There are some discordant colours, where different pigments have aged in different ways, but that is a small price to pay.

Yet the difficulty of the Sistine Chapel is not simply tourist crowds or matters of restoration. The chapel is at least three different things: a place of worship, a work of art, and a scene of history. As a place of worship, the few people find it ideal. Despite the triumphalist architecture, it is easier to pray in St Peter's itself; in the Sistine Chapel, the feeling is different. One is too conscious both of the aesthetic impact and of the wealth and power of the Catholic Church as an institution.

Even as a work of art, the Sistine Chapel is by no means easy. The ceiling can perhaps be regarded as a welcoming work of art, almost distractingly beautiful. But the great *Last Judgment* dominates the whole. One does not just drop in on

Michelangelo's *Last Judgment* as one might drop in on a Gainsborough portrait in the National Gallery. To do so would be like taking a paperback of Milton's *Paradise Lost* to read for an hour on a short flight. Michelangelo's painting is very demanding, in its structure as a composition and in its communication as a work of religion.

The composition follows a traditional pattern. Christ is the central figure, in a luminous oval; the dead are rising again, watched by angels and saints; some are rising towards heaven, others are falling towards hell, which is at the foot of the painting on Christ's left-hand side as he faces the viewer. If one compares the Sistine Chapel with Giotto's fresco in the Arena Chapel in Padua, which was painted rather more than 200 years earlier, there are a number of significant differences. All Michelangelo's figures are seen in motion, a swirl of movement in an arc from those rising on the right to those falling on the left. Giotto's people stand in stiff rows. Giotto has Christ outlined in an egg-shaped oval, standing on his own. In Michelangelo the oval is not outlined, and is not regular; Christ has his mother at his right-hand side.

The pose of Christ is quite different from Giotto's conception. Giotto's Christ is full of manifest compassion, with both arms outstretched. Michelangelo's has his right arm raised in a gesture reminiscent of an orchestral conductor calling for silence. Vasari talks about "terribilità", but the gesture seems more one of suspense than a threat. Michelangelo's Christ has absolute authority. In a preliminary sketch now in Florence, compassion is expressed not by Christ but by his mother, who is looking upwards with a gesture beseeching mercy for the world. In the Sistine Chapel she is turning away, as though in distress; Vasari even thought she was intended to appear afraid of her son.

As Paul III was the great Pope of the early counter-Reformation, one might have expected the *Last Judgment* that he commissioned to be a counter-Reformation icon, a statement in paint of the Roman Catholicism that was to be asserted by the Council of Trent and by the Jesuits. It is nothing of the kind. Apart from a rosary and St Peter, who appears holding the key of heaven, there is little specifically Catholic symbolism; the cast includes early saints and Jewish patriarchs who would have been as familiar and acceptable to Luther as to Paul III. The *Last Judgment* is an extraordinarily powerful religious painting, but it represents the inspiration of the artist, although working in an established tradition rather than being propaganda for a specifically Roman view of the Faith. Indeed from a very early time some people criticised it for heterodoxy.

Michelangelo drew on a variety of traditions, on the Bible, on Christian myth, on medieval cosmology, on Dante's *Inferno* and on the journey to the underworld in Virgil's *Aeneid*. The period was one of intense religious speculation, not only in the Protestant north of Europe, but equally in Renaissance Italy. This included neo-Platonists, and Michelangelo seems to portray Christ as a Platonic ideal, a perfect standard by which universal judgment could be made, rather than a compassionate and human redeemer. Michelangelo himself had been closely associated with neo-Platonists in the Medici circle.

One of the chief concerns of the neo-Platonists, as of human beings in every generation, was human survival after death. Henry More, the 17th-century Cambridge Platonist, tells this story: "That eminent Platonist, Marsilius Ficinus, after a warm dispute of the immortality of the soul, made a solemn vow with his fellow Platonist Michael Mercatus, but whether of them two died first should appear to his friend, and given him certain information of that truth... Michael Mercatus being very intent at his studies betimes on a morning heard an horse riding by with all speed, and observed that he stopped at his window, and therewith heard the voice of his friend Ficinus crying

very loud: 'O Michael, Michael, vera, vera, sunt illa' [these things are true]. He suddenly opened the window, and spying Marsilius on a white steed, called after him, but he vanished in his sights... he died about that hour."

If we try to understand Michelangelo's *Last Judgment*, we have to accept that he believed that what he was painting was true; he did not think he was painting a mere illustration to a story. This is difficult for modern people, since hell is the most discredited part of traditional Christianity. We have gained and lost by this rejection of hell. What we have gained is a stronger belief in God's mercy; indeed I believe in the compassionate Christ of Giotto rather than the apparently implacable Christ of Michelangelo. What we have lost is the recognition of the reality of evil, and this in the century of Auschwitz.

The late Bede Griffiths, the saintly Benedictine monk who studied the Eastern religions, puts the problem very well: "Each religion contends with this problem of justice and mercy, wrath and love, law and grace, and in a sense the conflict can never be resolved, as long as we remain on the level of duality... perhaps the problem is most acute with the Christian doctrine of hell and eternal punishment. In both Hinduism and Buddhism hell is a temporary state and no one is condemned to eternal punishment." Even in Michelangelo hell is for the sin rather than the sinner; a scholar of the period, George Bull, tells me that there is evidence that the figures falling into hell represent the deadly sins, not individual sinners.

There are some medieval illustrations which show the soul of the individual as containing the whole universe, following the statement in St Luke's Gospel: "The kingdom of heaven is within you." In these illustrations also, Christ is at the centre, sometimes with his mother. One can read the *Last Judgment* in the Sistine Chapel as an inner portrait of Michelangelo himself, with the redeemer at the centre of the human soul and the demons in a dark and subterranean subconscious. This hell is what is what Swedenborg, the remarkable Swedish mystic, called "vastation": what is certain is that Michelangelo had personally experienced the dark night of the soul.

William Rees-Mogg

Peter Brookes
30.11.95

America's new special relationship

Henry Kissinger on Britain's role in the world

At the end of the Second World War, Britain was the only country that had not been occupied at one stage or another, that had preserved its institutions and its inward strength and had therefore made the transition from power to influence in an extraordinary manner. It took exceptional self-discipline and skill for a country that had been at the centre of world affairs to shift its emphasis in this way. And while the Gaullist approach to America was to make disagreements extremely painful, the British approach was to make disagreements extremely embarrassing. Since then, many of the tacit bargains by which Europe and the United States and the European/American relationship were constructed have been altered. The Cold War has obviously ended. The division of Germany has also gone, and with it the position in which France had a certain kind of political leadership on the Continent, and Germany a certain kind of economic leadership. The United States performed the security role. Germany was linked to the US through Nato and through France to the European Union; and Britain was extremely helpful in establishing an overall framework. Now that relationship has to be redefined.

I do not agree with those who believe that the United States should now shift this special relationship to Germany. It is not helpful to Germany and it is not meaningful for the United States. We should not have a special Continental partner and I do not know any German leader who aspires to such a position. What is needed is co-operation with Europe in the transition to the conduct of a global policy, without enemies.

There have been two approaches to European/American relations. One was the Gaullist approach for which, in my writings, I have had great sympathy. It reflected the necessities of a country that had gone through tremendous difficulties in the War and in the colonial period and that needed to reaffirm its identity. The second was the British approach, which, more secure in its identity, sought to establish a pattern of co-operation with the United States. This was very difficult to challenge because it reflected the convictions and common interests of both sides. The British approach also reflected an historic tradition of a global foreign policy, while the French approach was more closely geared to the calculations of the margins on which stability in central Europe depended.

In the period of the Cold War, when the United States had the dominant role in security and when there was only one visible international challenge, it made some sense to define European identity by trying to wrest it from the United States.

Today, nothing is easier to achieve than to have America turn away from Europe; nothing is simpler than to convince Americans that they have no special interest in Europe. The tasks that Europe has are now so manifold that they do not have to be sanctioned by the United States. The participation of the central European countries in the European Union is an obvious example. There is no need for America to take a position or to involve itself. Whether Europe should follow a multiple geometry or be more closely integrated makes a difference in the relations between Europe and the US but it cannot be affected significantly by American pronouncements. As Europe expands, I personally believe that a more flexible approach is probably the more effective.

In America, we need to give a priority to European relations that frankly has been lacking. Therefore, the debate about Nato membership ought not to be permitted to peter out indefinitely. It is no longer possible to build an Atlantic relationship exclusively on security issues.

There was a period in which I thought that the next phase of American foreign policy should be to concentrate on building a western hemisphere community, still think that that is an important enterprise but I believe more that what we now need to do is to examine the idea of some form of North Atlantic free trade association, or free trade agreement. Whatever America builds in the western hemisphere, could then be related to such an association, and it would enable us to act with some purpose and some direction.

A succession of American leaders of both political parties have over a period of more than a generation considered it natural that on major issues Britain and the United States would seek to co-operate. They would have a level of consultation that was never formalised but was central to the formation of policy in both countries. Now, the challenge is whether this can be done with European/American relations and this is where Britain's experience can make a seminal contribution. Europe does not need to wrest its identity any longer from the United States.

● This is an extract from Dr Kissinger's speech to the Conference on "Britain in the world"

Doubly hurt

DISASTER has befallen a lady-in-waiting to Princess Margaret. On her return from holiday in Barbados, Jane Stevens discovered that thieves had raided the garden of her Oxfordshire home. The vandals decapitated an antique lead statue of a Cavalier soldier, and then made off with four other statues.

She is devastated. "The statues had been here for many years and they were part of this beautiful place," said the former wife of Jocelyn Stevens, the chairman of English Heritage. "The thieves broke down the gate on two nights running to get in. They didn't get everything they wanted the first time, so they came back again the following night."

In the first raid at the converted mill near Abingdon the thieves left the severed head after falling to wrench the statue from its plinth; they then stole a sculpture of a heron. The second time they took two stone ornaments and a bronze eagle. They had to cut off the bird's beak and feet to break it loose.

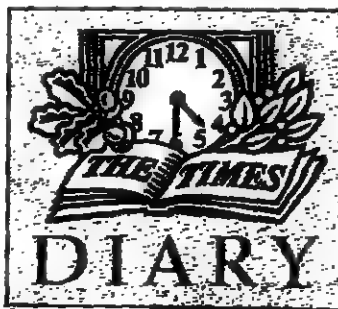
Mrs Stevens, who lives at Kensington Palace when in London, is still opening her garden to the

public on April 2. But she has complained that the police were slow to act. A spokesman from Thames Valley rejected the suggestion. "She is upset because she felt the police were not paying any attention. But the problem was that the housekeeper, who reported the crime in her absence, could not give us any details."

● Live television coverage of Ronnie Kray's funeral cortege through London's East End yesterday provoked a minor hitch for one burly minder with a crew-cut. When his mother spotted him on the box, she rang him immediately on his mobile phone. "Not now, Mum," he cooed, fending off the crowds with his free hand. "I'm a touch busy."

French class

USHERETTES will be on their guard against ink pellets and flying rubber bands in theatreland today, when all 920 boys, plus teachers, parents and friends of Loughborough Grammar School scrum in for a West End show. In



what is believed to be the biggest block-booking for a Cameron Mackintosh production, Loughborough has taken all 1,500 seats of the Palace Theatre for the matinee performance of *Les Misérables*. The outing is part of the school's quinquennial celebrations, explains the school bursar, Philip Feather. "Les Mis may seem a slightly strange choice of show for a celebration but it's supposed to be very good. I expect the most interesting part of the day will be when 25 coaches try to leave the West End in the rush hour."

● Just as singers were about to burst forth in London's Banqueting House at a dinner hosted by the Historic Royal Palaces on Tuesday night, they were cut short by a piercing "Beeep". Angry eyes swivelled towards the culprit

and caught David Mellor sneaking from the room, fiddling with his bleeper and leaving his paramour, Lady Cobham, rigid with embarrassment.

Good sign

JOHN MAJOR's love of Anthony Trollope is now set in stone. The Prime Minister has agreed to become vice-president of the Trollope Society, which celebrated the news in London last night at its annual dinner.

The society's founder, John Letts, is delighted but insists that Major will have no formal duties. "By a

DAD, THIS IS NIGEL, HE'S GOT AN ACCOUNT WITH THE HALIFAX



very charming coincidence, however, his acceptance letter from Downing Street was signed by his private secretary, a Miss Warburton," he says. "Well, the private secretary to the Prime Minister was Anthony Trollope's book *The Prime Minister* was a Mr Warburton. I wonder if Mr Major chose someone with the same name deliberately."

● Douglas Hurd stoutly resists whining about the BBC in the manner of his ministerial colleagues. Indeed at his mega-conference yesterday on Britain and the World, our Foreign Secretary enthused: "The BBC is the most recognised brand name in the world — after Coca-Cola."

Pecking order

AUDITIONS are soon to be held for the top job at the Tower of London. Only those with the right dark good looks and winning personality need apply. The Yeoman Raven Master of the Tower, David Cope, is scouring the country for ravens to replace two birds deemed too vicious for life at the tower.

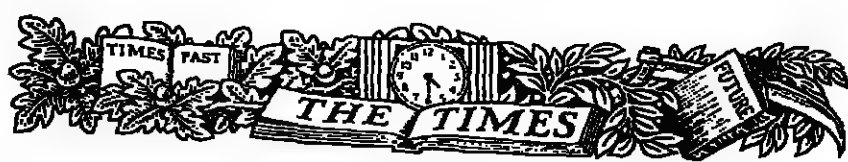
The brace of offenders, which all but pecked the life out of their six peers, have been locked up in a corner of the tower. They will be re-



Dark, handsome couple sought

tired to a sanctuary in Wales when their replacements are found and Cope is pinning his hope on a trip to the Outer Hebrides, where ravens are awaiting his perusal. "Recently the birds have come from Wales," he says. "But in 1946 the Duke of Sutherland gave us three birds from Scotland and I thought that it would be appropriate to have a change of blood."

P.H.S



BRITAIN'S PLACE

Good questions were asked yesterday: answers take longer

Asking the Royal Institute for International Affairs to invite 700 people to discuss Britain's place in the world was always a risk. Nothing immediately tangible was ever going to come from it — apart from the all too patent moments of humour. Nonetheless the Government took the risk: it opened the management of British foreign policy for a day and deserves rewards for doing so.

Strategic concerns were outlined yesterday which need sustained attention and a wider public airing. What reliance can we place in future on the Pax Americana? Can the European Union bring stability to a continent from which communism has fallen? Or will Europe fall victim to sluggish growth, severe unemployment, over-regulation and loss of political confidence? Twenty years from now will Europe be dominated by the dynamic economies of Asia in every field bar the study of its own history?

"Britain in the World" is a theme which attracts easy gibes about post-imperial nostalgia, the avoidance of the European perspective that is so often said to be the only reality. Yet, as yesterday's discussions showed, it is not nostalgic to be sceptical of Europe's drift to bureaucratic union. British foreign policy must not be trapped in the narrow grooves which Maasticht has carved. As a country which exports more per head than Japan, Britain continues to have a vital interest in the rule of law in the wider world — and thus in preserving what Hobbes called "the common power to keep men in awe". Its permanent membership of the UN Security Council is not an anachronism: it accurately reflects the respect in which British diplomatic skills and the professionalism of its Armed Forces are held.

Churchill's "terrible century", as Mr Major said yesterday, has ended "sooner and more suddenly than anyone foresaw". But many Western walls have developed fissures since the Berlin Wall between East and West came down. The mishandling of the war in Bosnia has weakened both the United Nations and Nato. In America, as Henry Kissinger said yesterday, "internationalism is no longer identified with European struggles".

This ought to call into play a British asset identified by Dr Kissinger: its skill in managing "the transition from power to influence" without losing the historic tradition of a global foreign policy. In his view, the transatlantic dialogue which characterised the 1940s needs to be revived in order to smooth the transition to the post-Cold War world — not in Britain, but America. His country, he said, has no strategic plan for dealing with a world without an ideological enemy, or practice in playing a field in which there are half a dozen players. A policy based on hegemony is neither feasible, nor acceptable to the American public; but there is also a passionate national aversion to balance-of-power politics, the game of reasonable equilibrium on which the future is likely to be based. Should the Europeans make the cardinal error of seeing the world in terms of "European" and "American" interests, he foresees "a continuation of the Western civil war that started in 1914".

This sobering threat has to be absorbed and acted on. However sour British relations with Washington are at present, Douglas Hurd was right to emphasise the solidity and multidimensional character of its contacts with the American Establishment. Britain has always seen itself as a European power reaching out from Europe. Britain has exceptionally wide international contacts, which it is better placed to exploit now that colonial resentments — and Britain's spasms of post-colonial guilt — recede into history. But Britain should not forget that Asia is also a strategically unstable zone. Looking East demands at least equally careful attention to the transatlantic dimension.

Above all, the business of projecting and defending Britain's national interests need not and should not be hostage to arguments about the potential value of a common European foreign and security policy, which may never acquire any substance. There is nothing nostalgic — still less escapist — about an effort to push debate in Britain out of a defensive mode in which Brussels is the centre of all attention.

WISE COUNCIL

Look inside local government and search for the best

John Major's campaign to improve public services under the banner of the Citizen's Charter has been one of his Government's most considerable and least appreciated achievements. The publication today of the Audit Commission's local authority performance indicators is another welcome example of commitment to transparency in public administration and the fruits which this policy may eventually bear.

The tables, which cover the services provided by more than 450 councils, offer the citizen a statistical map of the modern welfare state. Education provision in Tower Hamlets may be compared with services in Humberston. Council rents in Hackney can be judged against those in Warwick. As the commission gives warning, these figures need careful interpretation. High spending is not the same as wise spending. The needs of a sparsely populated rural area are not the same as those of an inner-city borough. A local authority with a history of weak infrastructure cannot be judged on the same terms as one that has inherited the opposite.

Yet these caveats should not obscure the clear merits of the commission's new venture. As the Banham Commission has demonstrated, the sheer variety of local provision is one of the key features of public administration in this country. Taxpayers have a right to survey this variety and to ask why the services they subsidise and benefit from are so much more — or less — efficiently provided in a neighbouring local authority. Why, it will be asked, do some town halls spend more on their secondary school pupils than others? Why do some councils find it so difficult to pay student grants on time? Why

do some have such a high proportion of citizens over 75 in residential care?

One effect of the new transparency will be to disturb some jaded stereotypes. Lambeth, for all its noisy political correctness, appears to be the only council in England and Wales that does not know how many disabled citizens it should be serving. Liverpool, in contrast, emerges as one of the more effective urban authorities in some areas of provision. Nearly all of its pupils with special needs, for example, have passed through the bureaucracy within six months, compared with fewer than 10 per cent in some areas.

Comparison of this kind will also encourage attention to best practice. Wise councillors will seek closer liaison with local organisations promoting the interests of people with disabilities and other voluntary organisations. They will ask if anything could be done to reduce the considerable disparities between council rents in England and Wales. They will also look hard at the targets they set themselves. Some town halls, for instance, aim to deliver a bath to a home in two weeks; others within three months. Some hope to answer the telephone in ten seconds or less; others pay attention to the actual helpfulness of their responses to letters and telephone calls. As experience is pooled, so costs will be driven down. Lessons learnt in one borough will not necessarily be easy to export to a county hundreds of miles away. But in many cases, they will be. The more accessible that information about local government becomes, the better the services provided to ordinary people should become. The Prime Minister deserves credit for this quiet achievement.

READ THE KORAN

A measured message from the Bishop of Rochester

Anarchy in Algeria, blasphemy in Pakistan, and farwas against Salman Rushdie all conspire to widen further the gulf which exists between the West and the Islamic world. Yet a timely book by the Bishop of Rochester, published today, argues that this state of affairs need not persist for ever.

In his *Mission and Dialogue*, the Right Rev Michael Nazir-Ali states that "like Christianity, Islam has a rich and varied theological tradition". He argues for the development in Islamic theology and exegesis of a greater responsiveness to change. Citing such reformers as Waliullah and Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, the bishop argues that while the tenets of Islamic jurisprudence "need always to be promoted", this need not be "in ways identical with those of nomadic society in the 7th century". Believers of Islam must be enabled to "engage with contemporary life from the perspective of their faith", just as the evolution of Christianity has made it possible for the faithful to engage with their own scriptures.

Bishop Nazir-Ali hails from a Muslim background in Pakistan, and was previously the Bishop of Raiwind in Punjab. He is better placed than most to understand the difficulties faced by Christian minorities in a predominantly Muslim society, illustrated so starkly by the torment of Salamat Masih,

the teenager charged with blasphemy against Islam last month in Lahore. Equally, he is in a prime position to fathom the dilemma of Muslims who live as a minority in Western Christian societies. Although it is important that his book be read by theologians in Islamic societies, it is towards the latter group that his ideas are most powerfully directed.

In exhorting Muslims and their theologians to rise to the challenge of modernity, the bishop suggests that an intellectual culture needs to be encouraged within Islam "which will be critical in its approach to the sources of the faith". Questions will arise inevitably about the relation of Muslims to Christians and Jews — the other *Ahl al-Kitab*, or People of the Book. This, in the Bishop's own words, "should lead also to an interest in the literary background to the Koran" and its affiliation to the the Judeo-Christian scriptures.

International society needs a dialogue of reconciliation today between Western and Islamic thinkers as urgently as it once needed harmony between Christians and Jews. Such a development, if it were to promote a better understanding between Muslim and Christian societies, would enhance the spirit and temper of Islam itself as well as act as a force for global good.

Canada's fishing dispute with Spain

From Mrs John Speller

Sir, I write as a Canadian and also as a British citizen. I am the proud holder of two passports.

The Canadian Government's views in the fishing dispute with Spain seem quite straightforward and clear, and also seem to represent the interests and concerns of its citizens. As a Canadian, I have no reservations.

The British view, too, judged by public opinion, seems very clear and generally supportive. As a British citizen, I am quite content.

I wish I felt the same about the pious and pompous statements emanating from EU "spokespersons" who also supposedly speak on my behalf.

Yours faithfully,
MARILLA SPELLER,
Corham House, Sandpit Lane,
Bedlow, Buckinghamshire,
March 29.

From Señor Alfonso Torrents dels PRATS

Sir, The praise bestowed by you on Newfoundlanders in your leader of March 28, "Brave New World", seems to rely solely on sentiment over 90 per cent of them are of British descent.

International fishing rights are dismissed as "niceties" and Brussels, of course, is always wrong because of its "bloated [let us forget this standing epithet] bureaucracy". It seems a bit contradictory to read in the same issue of your paper that British inspectors who boarded the Spanish trawler *Estai*, seized on March 9, "found no evidence of rule-breaking".

Yours sincerely,
ALFONSO TORRENTS DELS PRATS,
162 Coleherne Court,
Old Brompton Road, SW5,
March 28.

From Mr Roger R. Cook

Sir, During the current fishing dispute, much has been written about Britain's links, and debt, to Canada. Europe's debt, however, seems forgotten. In two European wars this century Canadians died to ensure a fair and democratic Europe — not least at Vimy Ridge and Dieppe. Canada has also done far more than its share in UN peacekeeping operations around the world.

Spain's historical contribution is far less positive. May I suggest that in the present dispute it is not just Britain which is on the wrong side, but any European who values freedom and respects those who fought, and died, to preserve it.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER R. COOK,
St Georges, High Street,
Barkway, Hertfordshire.

From Mr A. N. Allott

Sir, For the Spanish to claim their "rights" to plunder and exhaust yet another fishing ground, and for the European Union to characterise the Canadians' attempt to stop them as "piracy", is cynical and hypocritical in the first case, and pathetically naive in the second.

On a visit to Namibia earlier this month I was told by a senior overseas aid worker that Spanish vessels, in total breach of that country's exclusive rights, had been systematically fishing its coastal waters. Namibia, given the length of its coastline and its lack of any patrol craft, was unable to prevent this. The situation was cured by the Canadian Government's enlightened generosity in donating patrol vessels and a helicopter to Namibia. I was told that one Spanish vessel illegally fishing had already been detained by the Namibian authorities.

The sooner international law recognises a duty on every state to protect international fishing resources, wherever located, the better. These are part of the common heritage of mankind. Once lost, they will be gone for ever.

Yours faithfully,
A. N. ALLOTT,
Sorbocroft Mill, Bodicote,
Banbury, Oxfordshire.

From Professor M. N. Montgomery

Sir, May I suggest some fundamental points concerning the current dispute that have been inadequately addressed by the UK media.

1. Although now a constituent member of the North American Free Trade Association, Canada remains the major and conspicuously most loyal of all Commonwealth countries and deserves diplomatic support irrespective of competitive European priorities.

2. The Canadian case is scarcely different from the issue of the "Irish box" in terms of defence against predators who understand little and care less for problems of non-renewable natural resources.

3. Canadian Fisheries Minister, Brian Tobin, is very aware historically of how Newfoundland has been depleted economically by the transnational plundering of primary resource products for added-value processing and sale elsewhere. This is an equally neglected issue in both fisheries and energy areas in the UK.

HMG could do well to learn from the belated conversion of Ottawa.

Yours,
MALCOLM MONTGOMERY,
139 Broomhill Road, Aberdeen.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Taking issue with allegations of bias against the BBC

From the Archdeacon of York

Sir, Anyone who dips a toe into public controversy, whether political, ecclesiastical or whatever, must expect to be challenged and be ready to defend their position. BBC programmes such as *Radio 4's Today* and television's *Newsnight* make precisely that challenge and do it well. I believe the present ministerial attack, in particular on John Humphrys, one of the *Today* presenters (report, March 27; Woodrow Wyatt, March 28), to be without justification.

On several occasions I have been interviewed, sometimes fiercely and probingly, by both Jeremy Paxman, of *Newsnight*, and John Humphrys, and have always welcomed their style and admired their professionalism. Controversial views deserve to be contested in this way. The stronger the attack the better I like it, for it forces me to examine my views and defend (if I can) the position I have taken.

Moreover, as a regular contributor to *Thought for the Day*, I have had a greater opportunity than most listeners to observe John Humphrys and his colleagues in action. I am left wondering whether the who complain have found themselves attempting to defend what proved under questioning to be indefensible.

Yours etc,
GEORGE AUSTIN,
7 Lang Road,
Bishopthorpe, York,
March 27.

From Mr Ian Curteis

Sir, "While it is right that the accepted orthodoxies should be challenged, equally it is essential that the established view should be fully and clearly put" — the 1977 Annon Committee re-

port on the Future of Broadcasting, p.269.

Were John Humphrys, Jeremy Paxman and others to observe both sides of this simple formula when interviewing Ministers, instead of just one, we would respect their professionalism somewhat more than we do at present.

Yours truly,
IAN CURTEIS,
The Mill House, Coin St Aldwyns,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire,
March 28.

From the General Secretary of the TUC

Sir, I was John Humphrys's first interviewee at an education rally and lobby of Parliament on March 21 to protest against education cuts. After a brief three-minute speech to the rally, I was pressed hard by Mr Humphrys along the following lines: "How would you propose we pay for better education standards?", and "If the TUC would make education a priority for increased public spending, what areas would be downgraded in order to free the extra money?"

These were certainly not the soft, slow, full tosses that Jonathan Aitken seems to crave. Mr Humphrys was true to himself and the best traditions of the BBC.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN MONKS,
General Secretary,
Trades Union Congress,
Congress House,
Great Russell Street, WC1,
March 28.

From Mr David Dimbleby and Mr Jonathan Dimbleby

Sir, Woodrow Wyatt's claim that when Richard Dimbleby was the presenter

of BBC's *Panorama* and he was a member of the reporting team "every-one knew Richard was a Tory" is unconvincing. As far as we know, Richard Dimbleby never told anyone how he voted.

Neither of us knew, none of his friends knew, none of his colleagues has ever claimed to know. It seems unlikely that he would have confided only in Lord Wyatt.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID DIMBLEBY,
JONATHAN DIMBLEBY,
14 King Street, Richmond, Surrey,
March 28.

From Miss Elizabeth Stockwell

Sir, British Rail were baffled by "the wrong sort of snow" and it now appears that the Tories are equally flummoxed by "the wrong sort of questions".

Is there a possibility that the British Government may be being run by the wrong sort of politician?

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH STOCKWELL,
Bourn House, South Knighthorpe,
Newton Abbot, Devon.

From Sir David Nicholas

Sir, When I first edited election coverage for ITN in the 1960s, I was given the following advice by a veteran political reporter. "Remember David", he said, "the political party which loses the election goes down clutching the testicles of television in its hand".

Yours sincerely,
DAVID NICHOLAS,
(Chairman, Independent Television News, 1989-91),
Lodge Stables,
28 Kidbrooke Park Road, SE3.

Need for a directive from Brussels on hallmarking

From the Chief Executive, National Association of Goldsmiths, and the Chief Executive, British Jewellers' Association

Sir, Your report (March 28) on the latest pressure from Europe for a new standard for precious metals does not point out that the whole jewellery industry in the UK — manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers — is in disagreement with the Assay Offices and has been urging upon HM Government for some time the need for an EU hall-marking directive in the interests of consumer protection.

The UK consumer has been at risk since September 1994, when the European Court of Justice gave its "Houtwipper" judgment, which is in conflict with the UK 1973 Hallmarking Act. Amongst other things, the Houtwipper judgment ruled that "equivalent" hallmarks from any member state (equivalence to be decided by the national courts) can now be legally sold in the UK.

This probably means that precious metal articles hallmarked in France, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, The Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Sweden (and possibly Belgium and Denmark as well) can be legally sold in the UK in defiance of the 1973 Act — some of them with lower purity levels not recognised by the Act.

There is no single reference book listing all the "equivalent" hallmarks, and rulings from the British courts will only be revealed over a long

period. One needs to refer to a number of books, some difficult to obtain or out of print, to try to establish what may be legally sold. This highly confusing situation offers an open invitation to the possibility of fraud, which might well bring the whole jewellery trade into disrepute.

The UK jewellery retailer is being placed in an impossible position, as are UK consumers and the UK regulatory authorities.

That is why we urgently need a directive. It would be extremely sad if special pleading by the Assay Offices is allowed to perpetuate for longer than necessary the present position.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SANDERSON,
Chief Executive,
National Association of Goldsmiths,
DAVID GEORGE,
Chief Executive,
British Jewellers' Association,
c/o 78a Luke Street, EC2,
March 28.

From Mr Eric S. Poyser

Sir, I write as a member of the British Hallmarking Council since its inception in 1974, and the president of the Harmonisation Commission of the Confédération Internationale de la Bijouterie, Joaillerie et Orfèvrerie (CIBJO), the international jewellery association.

The world's jewellery industry needs a clear, safe and well regulated framework, and the UK industry

worked relentlessly to ensure the passing of the Hallmarking Act at a time when the British hallmark was in jeopardy because of the feeling that the Trade Descriptions Act was sufficient.

Since that time, cases in the European Court of Justice, culminating in *Houtwipper*, have led to confusion in the UK and other member states, and CIBJO has therefore pressed the European Union to agree a directive to give the industry a clear law.

In recent European negotiations the UK has been extremely successful in retaining all the finenesses for gold, 9ct, 14ct, 18ct and 22ct, which we use, together with sterling silver and our fineness for platinum. In addition, all the important features of the British hallmark have been retained.

The directive, to be discussed in Brussels on Thursday, does allow other forms of marking, but these marks are controlled. The consumer will be better protected with a directive than without one. This directive will still allow consumers the freedom to choose articles bearing the British hallmark, and the opportunity to co-operate with this directive should be grasped with both hands. It is more favourable to the UK than to any other member state.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC S. POYSER,
Old Vicarage,
Woodborough,
Nottingham,
March 28.

Doorstep delivery

From Mr Simon Dobbs

Sir, The problem most people have with doorstep milk deliveries (letters, March 29) is not the price (they would gladly pay extra for the service) but the fact that they occur after everyone has left home, and the milk sits on the doorstep all day long. Modern production methods mean that milk will last a week if kept in a refrigerator, so delivery time could be in the early evening. Why not combine it with the evening paper and fresh bread?

Yours,
S. T. DOBBS,
3 Warwick Close,
Market Harborough, Leicestershire.

Water efficiency

From the Chairman of the Water Services Association

Sir, Last Monday's BBC *Panorama* (report, March 27; Dr Jack Cunningham's letter, March 29) completely ignored benefits that the water industry has brought to the economy, environment and to the health of future generations.

It said nothing about the £15 billion that have been invested in capital projects for water and for sewerage over the last five years. Nor of the massive continuing investment planned for the next decade. The quality of drinking water is now higher than ever before and is one of the highest in Europe. This is endorsed by the Drinking Water Inspectorate.

The quality of our rivers has improved significantly. At least 95 per cent of sewage treatment works now meet the performance standards laid down by the National Rivers Authority, compared with 83 per cent in 1988.

Overall, thanks to greater efficiency by the ten water and sewerage companies, on whose behalf I write, customers' bills will rise less over the coming five years than during the past five years.

Practical medicine

From Mr John M. Mutch

Sir, Mr Ronald Boxall's light-hearted reaction (letter, March 27) to Dr Stuttaford's accessible articles on medical matters might suggest that in essence they are for entertainment rather than education. Dr Stuttaford knows, from a letter of profound thanks I sent him last year, that one of his articles enabled me to recover health and return to work in a few weeks. I can only say from my own experience that self-diagnosis is better than no diagnosis.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN M. MUTCH,
3 Pitch Pond Close, Knotty Green,
Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

Independent schools

From the Headmaster of Eastbourne College

Sir, On the same day your Education Editor wrote on "single-sex schooling at risk" within the independent sector (report, March 29), Eastbourne College announced that it too, in response to parental wishes, is to become fully co-educational from September 1996.

Parents want a school environment for their sons and daughters which mirrors a world where both sexes compete equally. Almost all our feeder schools are co-educational and parents, having seen successful integration at the prep school level, increasingly want it to continue throughout their children's time at a senior school.

Far from "altering", the trend to co-education within independent boarding schools is gathering momentum in line with changing parental attitudes and expectations, and the convenience of having all the children in the family educated in the same place.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES BUSH,
Headmaster's House,
Old Wish Road,
The College,
Eastbourne, East Sussex,
March 28.

Too hot to handle

From Mrs Hazel Rice

Sir, While on holiday in one of the more remote regions of Wales earlier this month I had some difficulty in finding a copy of *The Times*.

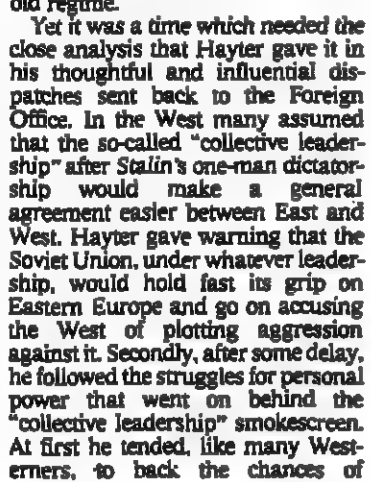
I was told that this was due to distribution difficulties "caused by global warming". In view of the prevailing weather conditions this seemed unlikely.

Yours sincerely,
HAZEL RICE,
25 Burford Gardens,
Palmer's Green, N13,
March 26.

Sports letters, page 41

SIR WILLIAM HAYTER

In Paris he and his wife greatly distinguished themselves. It was, therefore, not altogether unexpected that in 1953 he should have been



His last weeks in Moscow during the autumn of 1956 were unhappy. The Soviet suppression of the Hungarian uprising and the Anglo-French reaction over Suez brought all tentative hopes of better Anglo-Soviet relations to an abrupt stop. Hayter himself was so shocked by the British action against Egypt that he seriously considered resigning his post. But when the Soviet Government sent a blistering note to London, referring threateningly to the use of rockets, Hayter himself sent to London the draft of a firm and dignified reply which the British Government substantially accepted.

He and his wife were outstandingly successful in one important task

Hayter himself wrote in his autobiography that 15 years later, he still felt "an amateur in Oxford", as one who had "no share in, and no direct experience of, the two main academic activities, teaching, and research". To the extent that this was true (and he

Beyond his volume of memoirs, *A Double Life*, he published several wise, economically worded books on Russia and international relations: *The Diplomacy of The Great Powers* (1961), *The Kremlin and the Embassy* (1966), *Russia and The World* (1970); and others on William of Wykeham, *Patron of the Arts* (1970) and his delightful work *Spoonerism* (1977) on the originator of "Spoonerisms".

William Hayer is survived by his wife Iris, nee Hoare, whom he married in 1938, and by their daughter.

His belief in Australia and

But dearest to him of all was

He is survived by his wife Trudy and two sons and one daughter.

The Countess of Feversham by Raoul Millais

THE Countess of Feversham, widow of the 3rd Earl of Feversham, was a passionate horsewoman and sometime Master of the Sinnington Hunt in North Yorkshire. Instinctively courteous and with a strong sense of duty, she devoted many years to the WRVS both at local and national level, and to numerous charitable causes.

She was born Anne Dorothy Wood, the daughter and eldest child of the 1st Earl of Halifax, Viceroy of India from 1926 to 1931. Her mother was Lady

That year Feversham was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture. He resigned the post three years later in order to concentrate on his estate and business interests but the war interrupted his plans and, accompanied by

She found she enjoyed administration and she continued her association with the WRVS on a national level afterwards, later under the chairmanship of Lady Pike. For this, she was appointed MBE in 1950 and advanced to

Her husband was a progressive farmer and landlord at his estates around Helmsley. Lady Feversham supported him in all his experiments and projects but she was more personally enthusiastic about such hobbies

His 21 years at Reading followed an interesting early career. He left school at an early age, served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War and completed one of the postwar emergency teacher training schemes. He taught in a number of secondary schools in Northumberland and studied for a part-time honours degree in English at London University. The fact that he obtained a first was, no doubt, one reason why he was offered a post teaching English at Dulwich College, where he subsequently became chief English

He is survived by his wife Trudy and two sons and one daughter.

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ALL TIGHE Phoenix, Oliver, Brian, Stewart. Call 517 370 4816.

AVANT Phoenix, Oliver, Brian, Stewart. Call 517 370 4816.

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ALL TIGHE Phoenix, Oliver, Brian, Stewart. Call 517 370 4816.

ALL TIGHE Phoenix, Oliver, Brian, Stewart. Call 517 370 4816.

WANTED

ALL CROSSLAND Articles, hand bags and leather goods. Call 517 370 4816.

WINTER SPORTS

FLY Air Day Air Day, Air Day, Air Day. Call 517 370 4816.

SKI SPORT Ski Sport, Ski Sport, Ski Sport. Call 517 370 4816.

SKI TOTAL Ski Total, Ski Total, Ski Total. Call 517 370 4816.

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Please note for pet connoisseurs the latest news on the adoption of animals. Call 517 370 4816.

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Donations are urgently needed to enable us to buy more homes and to cover the cost of the homes. Call 517 370 4816.

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L. Castle, Lowell, Golden Miller, and Engle. There were casualties even at the first offence, and they continued throughout the first round until when the field came on to the

second time, the order had changed. Wildstown was now leading from Thomas with Blue Prince and Castle Irwell next.

For the first time in the history of the race, all

round until when the field came on to the

om that point the race was between

owns and trains the winner, who was ridden by

حكاية من الماضي



ANATOLE KALETSKY 27

Britain's real place in the world



BOOKS 36, 37

Cyril Connolly, a life not quite fulfilled



SPORT 38-44

McColgan cautious after rival pulls out of marathon

GEOFF BROWN
AT THE CINEMA
Arts 33-35

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY MARCH 30 1995

Shell to cut 1,200 jobs in London and The Hague

By CARL MORTIMER

SHELL, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, announced radical changes in the management of the company yesterday with the loss of 1,200 jobs from Shell's joint head offices in London and The Hague. In a briefing to staff in London yesterday, Cor Herkströter, chairman of Shell's committee of managing directors, said conditions in the oil

industry made changes necessary. "We see the business conditions of today, with flat margins and low oil prices, continuing into the future," Mr Herkströter cautioned staff against complacency after Shell's record 1994 profits of £4 billion. "Our performance is less than satisfactory," he said. "They should remember that we also have an extremely high level of capital employed and that the underlying

return on capital is modest." Shell is scrapping its organisational matrix, a complex system of checks and balances, set up 30 years ago to manage decision-making in a decentralised international company. Instead, five business committees will have shareholder responsibility for running the company, abolishing the old structure which had three lines of command, based on sectors, functions and

regions. The new business committees will be based on Shell's five business areas: exploration and production, chemicals, gas and coal and oil products, which comprises refining and marketing. Shell launched a review of its group structure six months ago with the help of McKinsey, the management consultants. Mr Herkströter described the old system as "designed for a differ-

ent era, for a different world." Duplication and confusion of roles had built up in the old structure, he explained, and the operating companies found support and guidance from Shell's head office service companies was ineffective or inefficient, and too costly. About 4,000 work in the service companies, but Mr Herkströter would not say which areas would suffer most, saying that increased

efficiency would lead to an overall reduction of about 30 per cent. Analysts described the news as broadly favourable, although some were hoping for more drastic cuts. Shell's head office costs about £625 million a year and some questioned whether a 30 per cent reduction would give Shell much scope for profit improvement.

Pennington, page 25

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FT-SE 100	3142.3 (+14.0)
Yield	4.25%
FT-SE A share	1538.43 (+5.43)
Nikkei	16480.73 (-221.00)
Dow Jones	4195.04 (+43.23)
S&P Composite	507.53 (+3.73)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	6 1/4% (0 1/4%)
Long Bond	103 1/2% (7.38%)
Yield	7.38% (7.39%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-mth interbank	8 1/4% (0 1/4%)
Libor long gilt	103 1/2% (102 1/2%)

STERLING	
New York	1.6088* (1.6183)
London	1.6088 (1.6057)
DM	2.2227 (2.2431)
FF	7.8520 (7.9370)
Sfr	1.6324 (1.6522)
Yen	141.87 (143.15)
2 Index	88.3 (85.4)

DOLLAR	
London	1.3637* (1.3880)
DM	4.6768* (4.8975)
Sfr	1.1410* (1.1462)
Yen	88.29* (88.98)
2 Index	88.6 (80.6)

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$17.20 (\$17.10)
London close	\$883.35 (\$882.35)

* denotes midday trading price

Pearson adds Neighbours to TV stable

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE conglomerate that owns the *Financial Times* and half of the Lazard Brothers merchant bank is buying the Australian television producer behind *Neighbours*, Australia's longest-running TV series and probably its best-known export. Pearson, currently building a stable of television interests that includes Thames TV, the former London weekday broadcaster, is paying US\$270 million (£175 million) for Grundy Worldwide, which is largely the creation of Reg Grundy, now 71. Grundy's *Neighbours* soap opera launched the singing careers of Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan.

The deal surprised the stock market because Pearson had released full-year figures on Monday that gave no hint of the purchase. Grundy had planned a New York stock market flotation at about the price being paid and is thought to have been up for sale for some time, with one other British television company believed to have turned it down.

Grundy has a daunting 4,000-plus hours of drama and 1,000 hours of game shows in its vaults and a reputation for cost-effective

production of both. Pearson hopes to sell these and further output by the company through the network that the group's television division has been establishing over the past couple of years. These include a global alliance in satellite television put in place with the BBC and TVB, the Hong Kong broadcaster, in which Pearson has a 10 per cent stake.

Grundy's output is well-tailored to cater for emerging television markets in Asia, which are hungry for game show and soap opera formats that can be adapted in accordance with local taste by using local actors or front men. The company's productions on British screens include *How Do They Do That?* and *Celebrity Squares*.

The Grundy deal is the first fruits from the appointment this year of Greg Dyke, who left London Weekend Television after its takeover by Granada last year. Before that, he was credited with rescuing the then-sailing TV-*arn* by the importation of Roland Rat.

Reg Grundy started his company in 1958 after a career as presenter, and then producer, of a variety of game shows, his first television job being on

the Australian version of *Wheel of Fortune*. Mr Grundy will receive almost \$240 million under the Pearson deal. He said: "Clearly this has been one of the most important decisions of my life. There are benefits in remaining an independent company, but, in the current fast-changing world of global media, the advantages of teaming up with a company the size and scope of Pearson are self-evident." Mr Grundy is to continue as a consultant.

Mr Dyke said: "[Grundy] has a legendary reputation for efficient financial management of its productions in its different markets, and I see the acquisition as a vital ingredient in our overall strategy."

Pearson shares fell by 10p, to 553p, on the news. The company is paying 17 times historic earnings and expects the purchase to improve earnings per share in 1995.

However, there was some scepticism in the market over Mr Grundy's future role. "The price doesn't look outrageous," one analyst said, "provided they can keep the act going without him."

Tempos, page 26

Greg Dyke, Roland Rat's former boss, has bought *Neighbours* for Pearson's TV arm

Losses at QMH deepen

By PATRICIA TEHAN

LOSSES at Queens Moat Houses, the debt-laden hotels group, which said last week it had finally agreed a £1.3 billion debt restructuring with its 74 banks, increased last year from £46.4 million in 1993 to £95.2 million.

The company's shares, which were suspended at 47 1/2p two years ago, will resume trading in May after an extraordinary meeting of shareholders on April 28, and a request for High Court approval of a scheme of arrangement on May 17.

After a debt-for-equity swap with the company's bankers as part of the restructuring, shareholders will be left with 40 per cent of the total share capital of the group.

Queens Moat will post details of the listing particulars and an offer from its banks to sell their shares for 8.6p each tomorrow. However, when trading resumes, the price is expected to be lower than 8.6p. There will also be a 1-for-10 share reconstruction, with new shares at 8.6p.

After the debt restructuring, Queens Moat is left with £700 million debts which it must begin servicing in full from January 1997. Most of the debt is fixed-interest debt, with an interest burden of £65 million for Queens Moat.

The losses for the year to January 1 were hit by exceptional items, including £23.4 million from the depreciation of sterling on the translation of foreign currency borrowings.

Pennington, page 25

Reed board pays itself £10.5m

By GEORGE SIVELL

DIRECTORS of Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publishing group, were paid a total of £10.5 million during 1994, a rise of 31.4 per cent on the £8 million for 1993.

The rewards were shared by 19 directors, 11 executive and eight non-executive, but were swollen by the £1.25 million paid in compensation to Peter Davis, who resigned as chairman in June.

Mr Davis last week became the new chief executive of the Prudential, Britain's biggest life insurer, which complained to a House of Commons Select Committee this week over the pay package that was awarded to Cedric Brown as the chief executive at British Gas.

The Reed annual report reveals that Mr Davis waived about one-third of his entitlement under his three-year service agreement.

The highest-paid director at Reed Elsevier was Peter Vinken, the chairman, who joined the £1 million a year club with a rise of 11.1 per cent to £1,037 million during 1994. Loek van Vollenhoven, deputy chairman, enjoyed a 13 per cent rise to £965,404. Reed also discloses individual fees for non-executive directors. Eight non-executive directors shared fees of £289,000, an average of £36,125. Head and shoulders above the rest was Sir Christopher Lewinton, chairman of the remuneration committee, who drew fees of £76,751 during 1994, a rise on 1993's £73,502.

Reed said Sir Christopher's fees reflected consultancy work on the Reed Elsevier board re-organisation.

Building society sues Fimbra for libel

By SARA MCCONNELL

THE West Bromwich Building Society is suing the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) for libel over allegations made by the regulator in a draft report on the West Bromwich's involvement in sales of home-income plans.

A writ was issued yesterday against Fimbra and Robert Guest, the author of the report. Mr Guest was Fimbra's senior legal officer when the report was drafted in 1994.

The West Bromwich's action comes after distribution of the draft to the media and members of the public by Mike O'Brien, MP for Warwickshire North, when the building society appeared at a hearing of the Treasury Select Committee on Monday.

But the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) is refusing to release a subsequent version of the report, which includes different and additional material.

Andrew Large, SIB chairman, yesterday came under sharp attack from members of the Treasury Select Committee when he told Sir Thomas Arnold, committee chairman, that SIB was never intending to publish a final report on the affair. The draft report, which no one, including the West Bromwich, had been allowed to see until this week, alleges that West Bromwich and Fisher Prew Smith worked closely together to market an "over ambitious" home-income plan called the Rainbow Equity Release Scheme to elderly homeowners.

Under the plan, people mortgaged part of their homes with the West Bromwich then

invested the resulting lump sum through Fisher Prew Smith, a Fimbra-registered independent financial adviser. Many similar plans were being sold in the late 1980s.

But falling house prices and stock markets and rising interest rates have since pushed many elderly people into debt. Fimbra's report says that "West Bromwich ought to bear its fair share of the financial responsibility" for the losses of investors by reducing interest rates on home-income plan mortgages and making a "substantial" payment to the Investors Compensation Scheme. The scheme has already paid out £12 million to Fisher Prew Smith home-income plan victims. John Baker, chairman of the West Bromwich, described the draft report as an ill advised.

Under the plan, people mortgaged part of their homes with the West Bromwich then

RJB set to cash in as coal prices soar

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT



Budge profits up

INTERNATIONAL coal prices have begun to rise strongly for the first time in 15 years as new power stations in South-East Asia come on stream, pushing up demand.

The upturn coincided with the sale of Britain's state coal industry to three private sector producers at the end of December. The McCloskey Coal Information Services market price for spot steam coal has surged 25 per cent, to \$43.94, during the past 12 months, and one recent international coking coal deal shows a 12 per cent rise, to \$49.30. Gerard McCloskey, head of MCIIS, says that there is now a "real danger" that there will be insufficient coal to meet Far East demand.

RJB Mining, which bought British Coal's English deep mines and oncost

sites, may now find it easier to displace imports, which last year accounted for 15.8 million tonnes of UK consumption, roughly a quarter of the total.

If RJB can achieve its goal of substituting seven million tonnes of English production for imported fuel, it will lift sales by about £250 million a year.

Richard Budge, chief executive of RJB, said that the upturn in prices brings the cost of coal delivered to UK ports to £1.25 per gigajoule, in line with forecasts for the market after 1998 that accompanied RJB's £400 million rights issue to finance the British Coal deal. Critics claimed the forecasts were over-optimistic.

In figures for the year to December 31, issued yesterday, RJB lifted its revenue

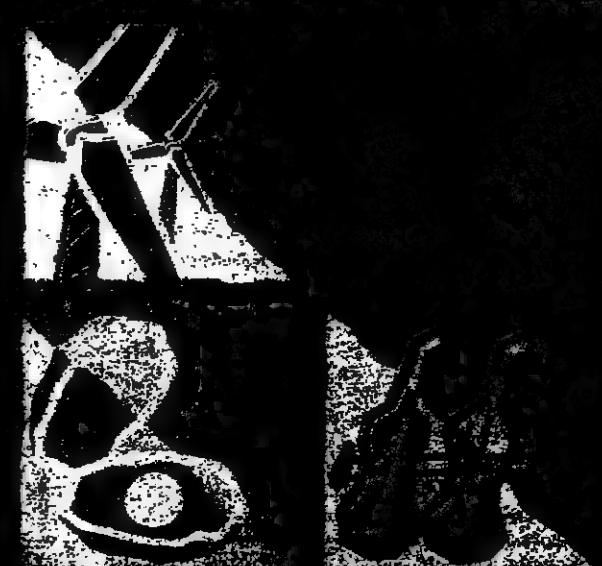
by 32 per cent, to £16.1 million, beating its forecast. A second interim dividend of 7.5p makes a 12.5p total payout, up 0.5p.

Mr Budge reported good progress in integrating the British Coal mines, which cost £215 million and came with contracts to supply 30 million tonnes of coal a year to National Power and PowerGen.

RJB now employs 9,165, including 7,300 miners, in its 22 deep mines and 18 opencast pits. Output is running at 36 million tonnes a year, and is rising as productivity improves. Ellington mine, in Northumberland, has been re-opened, and coking began last week at the new £460 million Astorby pit.

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TRADE INDENTITY

Employees 'are mis-sold free-standing AVCs'

By Sara McConnell

MEMBERS of occupational pension schemes who want to top up their contributions are being wrongly sold expensive free-standing plans although their companies are offering similar top-up facilities more cheaply, a leading firm of actuaries said yesterday.

An estimated million people make additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) on top of their contribution to an occupational pension scheme, particularly as they near retirement. Employers have to offer their employees an AVC scheme. Alternatively, employees are free to make their own arrangements through a free-standing

AVC (FSAVC) if they prefer. However, employees topping up with an FSAVC will pay the equivalent of one year's contributions in charges over 10 years, while those using their employer's scheme will have most of the costs paid for them by the employer.

Regulators are already investigating widespread mis-selling of personal pensions to members of occupational pension schemes. Evidence of further mis-selling of free-standing AVCs, which are similar in structure to personal pensions and sold by the same people, would further dent public confidence in pensions.

Steve Mingle, specialist in AVC arrange-

ments at Bacon & Woodrow, said: "There is no doubt that some free-standing AVCs are being mis-sold."

Several insurers that operate additional voluntary contribution schemes for companies have noticed large numbers of sales of free-standing AVCs to employees of the same companies. Mr Mingle added: "The only difference between the schemes is that the employees are paying high charges, including commissions, for the free-standing AVCs."

Mr Mingle also said that trustees have a duty to review the performance of the provider of their in-house AVC. Employees can lose thousands of pounds in benefits if trustees of

their scheme choose a poor provider. Bacon & Woodrow's annual survey of group AVC schemes, published yesterday, shows that, over 10 years, an employee making AVCs to the Co-operative Insurance Society (CIS), the best performer would have got a return of 17 per cent a year, whereas London Life, the worst, returned just 1.1 per cent a year. However, the CIS contract is only for employees of the Co-operative movement.

The best-performing managed fund contract, from Fidelity, returned an average 13.5 per cent a year over the last five years, three times the return of Guardian, the worst performer, at 4.4 per cent a year.

MTM in chemical takeover

MTM, the chemicals company, is acquiring Solvit, a maker of chemical industrial products, for a maximum £9.15 million. Solvit made £977,000 profits before tax last year (£702,000), on turnover of £6.4 million. The acquisition continues MTM's reconstruction after it sold most of its businesses in June 1993.

Halfway rise for Advest

Advest Group, the industrial holding company with interests in automotive components and power systems, said the outlook continued to be encouraging, with good demand. In the half-year to the end of December Advest increased taxable profits to £6.2 million (£3.93 million) from a £90 million turnover (£63 million), including a maiden contribution from acquisitions. The interim is lifted to 2.3p (2.1p), payable May 26. Since the end of the half-year Advest has acquired Triple A Tube for £12.6 million, its first US automotive purchase.

Speedy Frost

Frost Group, the SAVE petrol retailer, has reached its 250-stores target nationwide two years early. It is also planning to enter the dealer wholesaling market. Pre-tax profits for 1994 rose to £10.86 million (£7.65 million). A final of 3.2p makes 5.9p (4.9p).



David Jones, the chief executive of Next, where full year, pre-tax profits increased by 46 per cent to £107 million

Littlewoods in alliance talks with Vernons

By Martin Barrow

LITTLEWOODS, which announced the creation of 2,000 jobs in its retail divisions yesterday, is believed to have held informal talks with Vernons about closer links between their football pools operations.

The company, confronted with a steady decline in its market because of competition from the National Lottery, hopes that a television advertising campaign beginning next month — the first of its kind — will redress the balance. However, other options are being considered, including an alliance with Vernons, which is owned by Ladbroke Group.

Littlewoods and Vernons vie for the same market in football pools, with Littlewoods claim-

ing a 75 per cent share and Vernons about 20 per cent. Both companies are based in Liverpool and adopted new marketing strategies to counter the threat from the lottery.

Bill Huntley, managing director of Littlewoods, said: "We are always talking to Vernons. We are in the same town." However, when pressed on the prospect of concrete discussions with Vernons about a merger, Mr Huntley said: "There have been no formal discussions." Turnover at Littlewoods was currently about 10 per cent lower than before the lottery launch, he said.

Littlewoods expects to recruit up to 2,000 people, including 500 in its Mersey-

side heartland, as it expands its Index catalogue shopping chain and the Littlewoods department stores, opening new branches principally in the North West, Wales and Northern Ireland. However, the company continues to show a reluctance to expand in the South and South East, where it maintains a low profile, blaming continuing high rents and property costs.

The company, which last week parted company with chief executive Barry Dale, reported 1994 profits of £116 million before tax, compared with £117.2 million. Operating profits were reduced to £104.4 million from £118.2 million but there was an exceptional credit of £3.1 million (£3.4 million charge last time) and a rise in

investment income to £6.5 million from £2.4 million.

Retailing profits fell to £92.1 million from £99.5 million, although losses at Index, which competes head-on with the successful Argos chain, were cut to £5.8 million from £7.5 million. Pools and associated businesses rose to £27.6 million from £25 million, with the National Lottery denting fortunes in the final weeks of the year.

Despite the expansion of the company's other retailing interests, including the new warehouse clubs, home shopping continues to underpin its fortunes, lifting profits to £73.4 million last year from £69.2 million. Home shopping sales advanced to £1.08 billion from £1.04 billion previously.

Next rules out special dividend payments

By Susan Gilchrist

NEXT, the high street fashion retailer, yesterday ruled out the possibility of returning its growing cash pile to shareholders through either share buy-backs or special dividend payments.

Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, Next's chairman, dismissed City speculation on the matter as extraordinary. He said the group was comfortable with its cash position. "I don't think we have a dramatic surplus. I think we have got the balance about right."

The group boosted its cash balances by £32 million to £119 million last year. Lord Wolfson said that the money would be spent on expanding the store base and possibly making acquisitions.

Next, of which David Jones is chief executive, plans to open its first trial store in France, at Créteil, on the outskirts of Paris, in June. A further outlet is planned for the autumn. Lord Wolfson said that the format would be extensively tested before any further expansion. The group will decide whether to roll out its four trial stores in America later this year.

The group unveiled a 46 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £107.4 million, from £73.5 million, in the year to January 28. Like-for-like sales in the stores rose by 16 per cent, with sales from Next Directory increasing by 27 per cent.

A final dividend of 6.25p (4p)

brings the total payout to 9p (5.5p), a rise of 64 per cent. Shareholders will be paid on July 3.

'Game of chance' for names

LLOYD'S names are involved in a game of chance in which they can suffer huge losses almost by random, according to a review by James Smart, an accountant at Binder Hamlyn, into the £36 million of losses suffered by names on syndicate 604 (Sarah Bagnall writes).

Syndicate 604 suffered badly from asbestos and other latent liability claims emanating from America. In syndicate 604's case, the loss burden fell on the group of names who were underwriting on the syndicate in 1984 because exposure was not passed on to a new group through reinsurance. However, the losses relate to policies written in the 1940s, and placing the entire loss on a single group of names is not equitable, says Mr Smart.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia	2.31	2.14
Belgium	13.72	13.28
Canada	48.78	46.78
Cyprus	2.370	2.270
Czech Rep.	0.755	0.701
Denmark	9.52	8.72
Finland	7.82	6.87
France	6.54	7.28
Germany	2.38	2.17
Greece	361.00	356.00
Hong Kong	12.28	12.28
Ireland	1.04	0.98
Italy	5.219	4.519
Japan	284.00	284.00
Malaysia	157.00	141.00
Netherlands	0.803	0.548
Norway	2.887	2.427
Portugal	10.57	9.77
Spain	246.50	228.00
Switzerland	12.44	11.94
Sweden	213.00	200.00
Switzerland	1.87	1.79
Turkey	62.93	60.24
USA	1.700	1.670

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Airlines face fundraising difficulties

AIRLINES face growing difficulty in raising funds to acquire the \$30 billion of new aircraft they have on order each year, a leading banker warned (Ross Tieman writes).

Western banks, their balance sheets constrained by the need to retain £1 of assets for every £10 loaned, will concentrate lending on quality borrowers, Peter Ibbotson, head of aerospace at NatWest Markets, told a Brussels conference. Only Japanese banks, awash with funds and anxious to develop new markets, will initially prove enthusiastic lenders.

Banks are also concerned about the impact of state aid on airline profitability. Mr Ibbotson said. Appealing to Neil Kinnock, the European Union Transport Commissioner, to take a tough stance against aid, he said bankers needed a predictable political regime.

Bank takes liberal line on planned gilts repo market

By Janet Bush
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England yesterday confirmed that a new, open market in gilt-edged repos will start at the beginning of next year, in line with the timetable envisaged by the Chancellor.

The Bank yesterday produced a paper giving technical plans for the new market. The paper will form the basis for further consultation and work on items such as settlement procedure and monitoring of the market as it grows.

The Bank, of which Eddie George is Governor, has opted for as liberal and inclusive an approach as possible, leaving to participants much of the detail of how the market will develop. The framework envisages a repo market similar in practice and structure to mar-



George seeking views

kets already operating, notably the huge US Treasury bond market. The idea is that Britain's market will thus be familiar to overseas investors, who, it is hoped, will become even more enthusiastic participants in the gilt market. They

already hold nearly 20 per cent of gilts.

A repo is a transaction in which one market participant can lend gilts in return for cash, or vice versa. It is similar to the system of stock borrowing in which similar deals are negotiated bilaterally, but gilts are lent in exchange for other securities, such as certificates of deposit.

The rationale behind a repo system is that the market as a whole gains flexibility and liquidity and the Government's borrowing costs are only cut. The Treasury has estimated that every one basis point off yields cuts the cost of borrowing to the Government by £25 million annually.

The Bank has thrown the new market open to all participants, but has no immediate plans to enter into gilt repos or stock-lending itself. The two major advances in yesterday's paper are the agreement of a watertight legal framework for deals and a code of conduct. This leaves mostly technical work to be done before the starting date of January 2, 1996, which now looks realistic.

Pennington, page 25

UK water firms dragged into Australian dispute

By Rachel Bridge in Sydney

THAMES WATER and North West Water have become entangled in a dispute over foreign company involvement in the A\$1.5 billion (£680 million) privatisation of South Australia's water operations.

The two have been shortlisted along with Générale des Eaux and Lyonnaise des Eaux de France to run the water and waste water system in Adelaide.

But Senator Peter Cook, the Industry, Science and Technology Minister in the Australian federal Government,

likened the dispute to a "game of hide-and-seek" and said the Australian Government was not prepared to include an Australian company in the tender process. "It is critical that for something as strategic as water and sewerage management the ownership is Australian," he said.

He also called for a delay in the awarding of the contract to allow time for an Australian-controlled consortium to be put together.

However, the South Australian Government defended its actions yesterday, saying that no Australian company had the technology to undertake

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Three in line to buy NatWest custody unit

NATIONAL Westminster Bank has a shortlist of three parties interested in buying its £57 billion domestic and global custody business. The bank put the business up for sale several weeks ago, after deciding it was non-core.

NatWest declined to comment on its plans yesterday. NatWest Investment Services, the custody business, employs 240 people. Its biggest clients are the NatWest asset management business, which is run by NatWest Markets, and its pension fund. Other banks seek their custody operations — the safekeeping of securities for clients — as key to selling other services. But the custody services market has become increasingly competitive and NatWest decided the returns from it were insufficient.

□ NatWest said it will make a £5 million profit on the sale of its 19.21 per cent holding in Creditwest, the Italian bank. It has agreed in principle to sell the stake to Credito Emiliano for £12.9 million.

Ratner rebels succeed

REBEL preference shareholders of Signet, formerly Ratners, have succeeded in forcing an extraordinary meeting to consider the break-up of the debt-laden jewellery group. The rebels, who are owed £100 million in dividend arrears, have become alarmed at the slide in the group's share price and are pressing for radical action. They believe some form of break-up is the only way the group can only repay its £360 million of debt. Goldsmiths, the rival jewellery chain, and Argos have been cited as potential buyers of H Samuel and Ernest Jones, Signet's UK businesses. Signet is advising shareholders to take no action until a meeting is held.

Revamp at Meggitt

MEGGITT, the troubled engineering company where the acquisitive TT Group has taken a 4 per cent shareholding, is to begin a widespread restructuring. The company is to withdraw from its contracting activities, which last year had sales of £73 million while other businesses, with sales of £43 million, have been identified for disposal. The company yesterday disclosed a decline in pre-tax profits to £14.8 million in 1994 from £23.3 million in the previous year, with earnings falling to 4.3p a share from 7.1p. The total dividend is being maintained at 3.93p, with a 2.63p final, due to be paid on July 7.

Croda disappoints

SHARES in Croda International fell 26p to 335p after the chemicals company's 1994 financial results disappointed the City. Profits fell to £42.8 million before tax from £48.9 million in spite of a £3 million exceptional income from an insurance claim and a £1.8 million pension credit. At the operating level profits were £43 million (£43.2 million), on higher turnover of £423 million (£415.1 million). The company is negotiating the sale of its cosmetics and toiletries business, which incurred losses of £700,000 against profits of £1.7 million last time. Earnings were 22.9p a share (27.6p). A final dividend of 5.8p a share, due July 3, makes a total of 8.9p (8.4p).

Grampian lifts payout

GRAMPIAN HOLDINGS, the Scottish mini-conglomerate, said yesterday that the long-awaited benefits of its extensive restructuring were finally beginning to show through. Bill Hughes, chairman and chief executive, announced a lower than expected increase in profits before tax and exceptional from £5.6 million to £8.5 million in the year to December 31. Stripping out the £3 million net exceptional cost of the restructuring in 1993, profits slipped from £8.6 million. The final dividend, due May 30, was lifted to 4.05p, making a total for the year of 5.75p, up from 5.5p last time. Earnings per share rose from a post-exceptional 7.35p to 8.73p.

More power bills cut

TWO more regional electricity companies in England and Wales have announced cuts in the bills their customers will have to pay from next month. Eastern Group, the largest of the 12 companies, and Midlands Electricity, follow Southern Electric and London Electricity which announced price cuts on Tuesday. Eastern is offering its customers an average saving of about 3 per cent, which will rise to 4 per cent for consumers with lower than average bills. The savings stem from the recent decision to cut standing charges and freeze prices. Midlands is also freezing tariffs, claiming this equates to a cut of between 3 and 4 per cent in real terms.

Downturn at Senior

SENIOR ENGINEERING is holding its final dividend after a decline in taxable profits to £18.1 million in 1994, from £24.2 million in the previous 12 months. The downturn was partly caused by losses of £4.2 million on discontinued business, compounded by a sharp decline in profits in the thermal engineering division. A final dividend of 2.1p a share, due June 5, makes a total of 3.4p, compared with an adjusted 3.27p previously. Earnings were 4.38p a share (6.95p). The company said that the problems of the thermal engineering division had now been fully addressed.

Losses hold back Chime

ONE-OFF disposal losses held back profits growth at Chime Communications. Sir Tim Bell's public relations group that gained a listing last June after a reverse takeover of Chartwell, Chime, which has since divested of the Chartwell businesses, made a pre-tax profit of £128,000 in the nine months to December 31, compared to a loss of £1.2 million last time. Chime made an operating profit of £1.5 million, excluding exceptional losses of £1.3 million on the sale of a property and Chartwell — compared with a loss of £1.1 million. There is a final dividend of 0.8p.

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TAIWAN	40	104
BRAZIL	68	100
COLOMBIA	64	104
SPAIN	64	87
MALAYSIA	76	104

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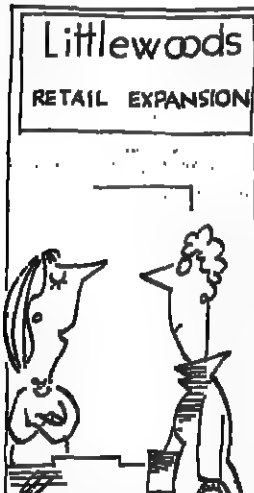
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Granting a new lease of life

LIFE begins at 70 ... providing you have the know-how, and are not a judge. SmithKline Beecham, the pharmaceutical combine, wants to change its "directors must retire at 70" rule so that William Grant can continue to serve. Grant has been a director of SB for 21 years, but by the time of the April 24 annual meeting he will have turned 70. Under SB's current articles, Grant must retire. However, he has such a wealth of experience in the US healthcare market that SB believes "it would be wise to retain his expertise" — at least for another year. But fellow director Sir Robert Clark, SB's vice chairman and 71, is going to retire.

Dogfighting

TWO birds with one stein. Perhaps Friedrich Zimmermann, the former German Interior Minister, has run into heavy flak over the discovery that he not only sits on the supervisory board of Lufthansa, the German national carrier, but happens to work for a Munich law firm, Nörr, Steffenhöfer & Lutz, which advises the airline's domestic arch-rival Deutsche BA, a British Airways associate. Pure coincidence, is how Herr Zimmermann dismisses the matter.



"Sorry, we do not sell lottery tickets"

Star treatment

THREADNEEDLE Asset Management, the one-year-old merged fund management business of Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar, rather rubs Gartmore's face in it with the tenor of its announcement that it has poached Simon Davies from Gartmore, where he was international investment director. Davies, 36, joins Threadneedle as chief investment officer with overall responsibility for a £25 billion investment portfolio. Threadneedle certainly labours the point about how important Davies was at Gartmore ... "Simon has been one of the driving forces behind Gartmore's considerable achievements in the last few years." "He is one of the most highly rated fund managers of his generation in the City." "He is a member of Gartmore's investment policy committee ..." "His appointment is a coup ..." etc. Gartmore should sharpen its pen for the inevitable day it snatches somebody from Threadneedle.

Coming a Kopper

DEUTSCHE BANK, Germany's largest commercial bank, came unstuck yesterday. No sooner had Hilmar Kopper, the chief executive, outlined cost-cutting plans to a Frankfurt audience when the cardboard placard bearing the bank's logo peeled off the wall behind him and fell on the heads of several of the company's top executives. Luckily none was hurt. "We should have set aside an extra five marks for better adhesive to cover such risks too," Kopper quipped.

COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY



The long road to putting the Great back into Britain

The economic rebound has been the mirror image of an exceptionally deep recession

THE idea of putting the Great back into Britain was supposed to have been the theme of the conference on Britain in the World, which John Major launched in London yesterday. That, at least, was the fervent hope of Foreign Office officials and Ministers: the timing could not have been more propitious to win some public support in their eternal battle with the Treasury over diplomatic funding, as well as to distract the media from their obsession with Tory infighting and sexual prurience. In the event, the conference turned out to be a damp squib. Partly this was attributable to Mr Major's predictably petty performance as the keynote speaker: his idea of a broad strategic vision for the 21st century was to announce a bureaucratic revision to the terms proposed by Britain for the UN sanctions against Iraq. There were, however, four more important reasons why almost any campaign to "put the Great back in Britain" was bound to fail.

The first is that many of the statistics suggesting Britain's new-found world leadership are misleading — and people often have a clear intuitive sense of what is really happening behind the statistics the politicians spout. The second is that Britain's greatest assets are cultural, not economic. They have, therefore, been systematically undervalued and degraded by the book-keeping mentality that has dominated the country since the 1960s. It is typical of modern Britain that it cannot even bring itself to have a Minister of Culture, describing him instead as the Minister for National Heritage, which sounds reassuringly materialistic.

The third reason why tub-thumping about Britain's greatness is unlikely to produce much resonance with the public is that the British people are the least chauvinistic in the world — to their great credit and to my personal benefit as a Briton by naturalisation, rather than birth. There can scarcely be another place on earth where one sees the national flag fly so rarely, where minority races and religions are treated with such toleration, and where most people cannot even make up their mind what their country is called when addressing a postcard from abroad: England, Britain, Great Britain or UK?

The fourth reason for public scepticism about Britain's role in the world is the one that currently dominates all the headlines: the country's inability to settle its relationship with Europe.

Since this is supposed to be a column about economics, I will confine my further observations to the first and last points. In the rest of this column I will look at Britain's relative economic performance. Next Thursday, I hope to review where Britain stands in relation to Europe, a task that should be helped by spending the weekend at the Königswinter conference of the Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft. (You see what I mean about the ambiguity over Britain's name.)

There is much to be said for the argument that Britain is advancing economically in relation to other countries and, in any case, stands much higher in the world economic pecking order than many cynics believe. The latter point is often forgotten, when Britain is described as a "middle-ranking economy" or a "third-rate power". In fact, Britain comes either fifth or sixth in terms of economic output (depending on what exchange rate is used for comparisons with Italy) — and is only about 15 per cent behind France. The next largest national economies, Canada and Spain, are only about half as big.

Such backward giants such as China and Russia are much further back, when comparisons are made in terms of the market exchange rates which determine a country's demand of world resources and its impact on world trade. China's GDP in 1992, for example, was \$442 billion, compared with Britain's \$1,025 billion and Spain's \$548 billion. Objectively, therefore, Britain is neither middle-ranking nor third rate, but occupies an important place among the second rank of world economies, behind America, Japan and Germany, but alongside Italy and France. Neither is it true that Britain has been particularly negligent in maintaining its "social infrastructure". As the bottom row of charts shows, our Government spends rather more than most other countries on education and far more on defence. Only in the health service is relative underfunding a legitimate complaint.

More recently the news for Britain has become even better. Since 1993, our economy really has grown faster and our unemployment has fallen more dramatically than in any other European country. It is also true, as the Government constantly reminds us, that Britain's export performance is now better than Germany's or Japan's, that Britain receives 40 per cent of inward investment into Europe, that the present economic recovery is well-balanced between regions and that growth shows every sign of continuing for many years ahead.

The trouble with all this good news is that Britain's recent economic rebound has been the mirror image of an exceptionally deep recession, as the public is all too well aware. Taking the five years between 1989 and 1994 as a whole, Britain has actually done rather worse than most other countries, in spite of its recent out-performance. Worse still, the same is true if we look further back, at the miracle years of the mid-1980s.

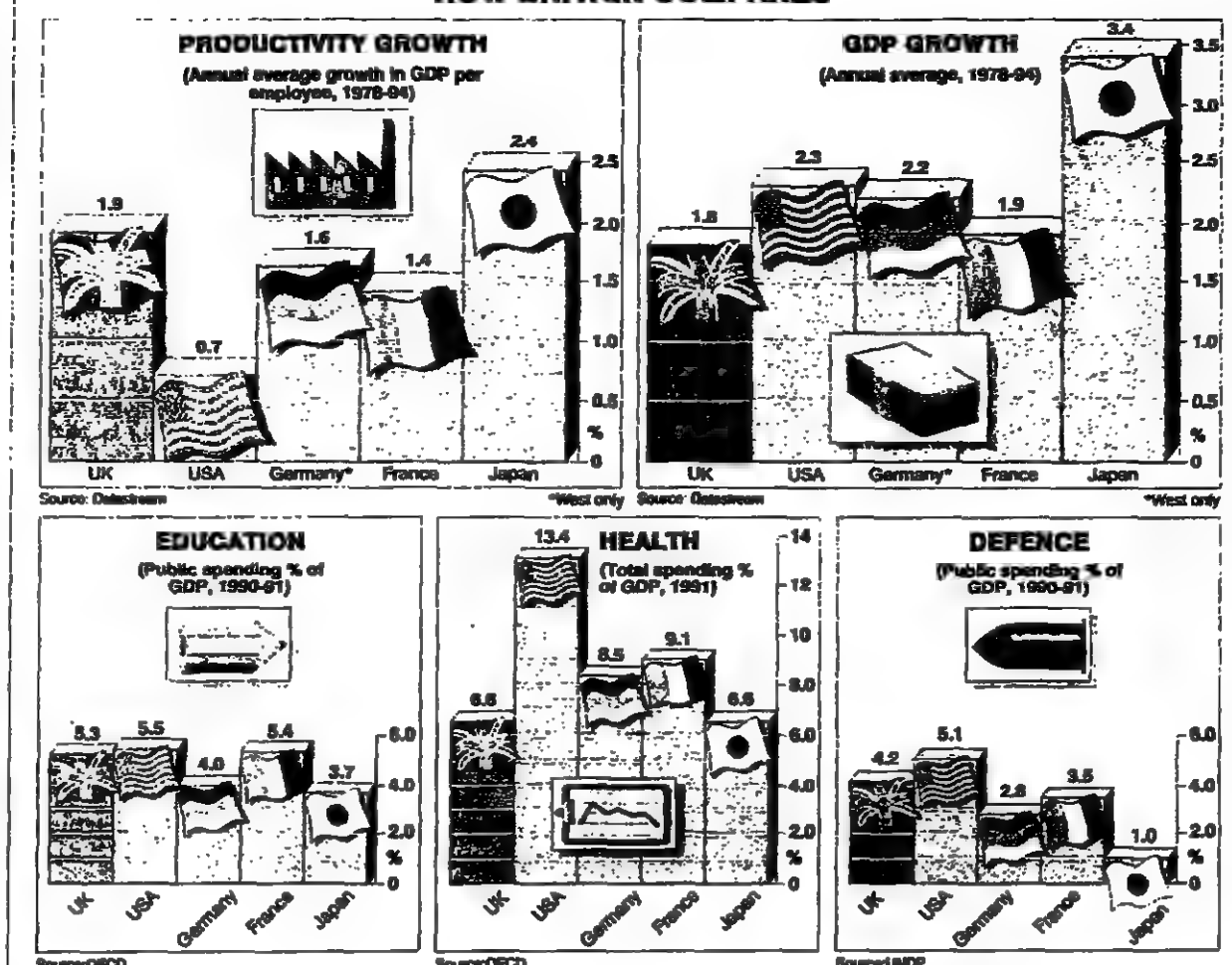
when many of the benefits of Lady Thatcher's reforms supposedly came into play. Consider the top row of charts, which compare performance over the past two economic cycles as a whole. Britain did only slightly better than other major economies in terms of productivity growth. And even this apparent advantage was achieved by cutting employment, instead of raising output. Looking at GDP growth, rather than productivity, Britain was in last place.

Only by starting such comparisons from 1980, when British industry was already decimated by recession, do the statistics show Britain's GDP outperforming other countries — and even then by only a tiny margin. Again, the British people doubtless have an instinctive feel for the truth, which is why they are unimpressed by Government boasts that Britain's policies are self-evidently more successful than Europe's.

A longer view also casts a less rosy light on Britain's export and investment performance. Exports are now growing strongly, but from a base that was badly depressed by the two recessions and the Treasury's long-standing addiction to an overvalued pound. Foreign-owned companies now provide 40 per cent of Britain's manufactured exports and 33 per cent of total investment. Is this a wonderful achievement? Or is it an illustration of how far Britain's indigenous manufacturers have declined?

Such questions do not imply that Britain's painful reforms in the 1980s were in vain. Even if Britain has declined slightly

HOW BRITAIN COMPARES



Source: OECD

Source: OECD

Source: INEP

in relation to the rest of the world since the late 1970s, at least the rate of decline, which was quite precipitous in the 1960s and 1970s, has unambiguously slowed. Moreover, Britain might have held on to the gains it had made in the 1980s had it not been for the exceptionally long and intense monetary squeeze Mr Major maintained from 1990 to 1992. Without the boom and bust caused by shadowing the mark and joining the ERM, Britain's position relative to Europe would almost certainly have improved over the whole 16-year period of Tory Government.

That simple fact, I believe, goes a long way to explain the sudden hostility to Europe that developed from 1992 onwards in the Conservative Party and the country at large. But more of that next week.

How Jaeger fashioned a new style

Susan Gilchrist reports on a change of image for a classic fashion brand

Dramatic change is taking place at Jaeger. The brand, long associated with the shires' twin-set and pearls brigade, is now looking decidedly more stylish. And its results are anything but staid.

Yesterday the fashion retail division of Coats Viyella, the Jaeger and Viyella brands, reported profits 19 per cent ahead to £10.8 million, from £9.1 million. They have more than quadrupled over the past three years at a time when many premium brands have suffered.

The catalyst for much of this change has been Fiona Harrison, Jaeger's chief executive, who joined in September 1991 from Clairvol. She had no fashion experience, but was determined to reinvent the brand image and instil commercial discipline.

"I was a great fan of the brand and I felt they were under-exploited," she says. "It was a very resilient business but had not grown as fast as its competitors." Whereas Jaeger thrived in the Sixties and Seventies, it suffered in the Eighties as a plethora of German and Italian brands such as Max Mara, Escada and Mondri topped the stakes.

"The business was delivering significantly lower than normal returns," she said. Its saving grace was the core of loyal customers, who ensured the brand's survival. But Ms Harrison recognised it also had to attract new customers if it wanted to grow. "When you mention Jaeger to customers, words like 'classic' and 'traditional' spring to mind," she said. "That's great, but we also wanted to make it a more stylish and aspirational brand, not just worthy."

Last spring, some of the more traditional elements of the range were dropped in favour of a more fashionable look. Ms Harrison says it was a change in emphasis rather than a full-scale repositioning. Nevertheless she agrees that in its first season the balance was shifted too far. "We did not have enough of the traditional

look and, as a result, operating profits fell 25 per cent in the first half."

The new approach is to keep a core classic range and to add "capsule" collections, aimed at more fashion-conscious consumers. Jaeger London, its first capsule collection, is now being rolled out to 30 stores. Early signs are promising, with half of sales to existing customers and half to customers who have never bought Jaeger before. "To me that says we are building the core and the new."

Other capsules will also be developed — all with the Jaeger brand name. "We believe in using the Jaeger name to leverage our business rather than launch a new brand with a different name as some of our competitors do." Launching a more fashionable collection that requires significantly shorter lead-times has had a knock-on benefit to the rest of the business. The period from design to shop floor is just 13 weeks for Jaeger London compared with up to nine months for the rest of the business.

"Extending these times into other parts of the range will enhance margins because you can respond quickly to best-selling lines," Jaeger has radical plans for a detailed database on both account and non-account customers. The company has spent £5 million on IT in the past three years and now has an Epos system that tracks customers' spending. "If a regular customer goes into any store the staff will know who you are and what you buy. They will know your size, favourite colours and what you bought recently. In this business — where personal service is vital and a sale can take up to three hours — that's leading edge."

But Ms Harrison is under no illusions that much remains to be done. Operating margins of 7 per cent are still below average for a premium brand business. She has set a target of 10 per cent that she hopes to achieve within the next two years.

When you say Jaeger, words like 'traditional' spring to mind

Annual Meeting of Shareholders

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders will be held on Thursday, May 11, 1995, 10:00 a.m. at the BASF-Feierabendhaus, Leuschnerstraße 47, Ludwigshafen/Rhine, Germany

Agenda

1. Presentation of the Financial Statements of BASF Aktiengesellschaft and BASF Group for 1994; presentation of the 1994 Annual Report covering BASF Aktiengesellschaft and the BASF Group; presentation of the Supervisory Board Report.
2. Declaration of dividend.
3. Ratification of the actions of the Supervisory Board.
4. Ratification of the actions of the Board of Executive Directors.
5. Appointment of auditors.
6. Election of Supervisory Board member.
7. Elimination of existing and creation of new authorized capital.
8. Approval of a control and profit-transfer agreement.

Shareholders wishing to participate in the Annual Meeting and to exercise their right to vote must have deposited their shares during normal office hours and in the prescribed form at a depository bank. The shares should remain deposited until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. Shareholders have the right to vote by proxy. Depository banks and the full Agenda are published in the "Bundesanzeiger" of the German Federal Republic Nr. 62 of March 29, 1995.

Depository banks in the U.K.:

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited
S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

The deposit is only effective if the shares are submitted by Wednesday, May 3, 1995.

The Board of Executive Directors
Ludwigshafen/Rhine,
March 29, 1995

BASF Aktiengesellschaft
67056 Ludwigshafen

BASF

Colin Narbrough at a monument to French technology

Renault builds for the 21st century

Just a stone's throw from the grand baroque Palais de Versailles, Renault, France's part-privatised car-maker, is building a Fr6.4 billion "Technocentre" that it hopes will ensure it a prominent place in the future European car industry.

The contrast between the company's vision and its immediate circumstances could not have been more starkly illustrated than on Tuesday, when it had to switch the venue of its annual results conference to avoid protesting workers at its Billancourt headquarters on the edge of Paris.

As foreign journalists toured the Technocentre site, whose prototype building section should start work in a few weeks, Renault was elsewhere engaged in an old-fashioned industrial dispute over pay. Three weeks of disruption has cost Fr200-300 million. Yet Louis Schweitzer, Renault chairman, is no French corporate dreamer. The 1994 results confirmed that even though the state holds a majority stake, Renault has been



The Technocentre will house 6,300 engineers

one of Europe's most profitable volume carmakers.

The group net profit of Fr3.7 billion was the eighth consecutive year in the black and tripled profits from 1993, when it suffered a traumatic breakdown of a merger plan with Volvo, the Swedish carmaker. But ending the affair brought a Fr488 million capital gain from the share sales.

As if to fete the public offering in November of a heavily oversubscribed 27.9 per cent of the company, Ren-

ault eliminated its financial debt for the first time, moving to a Fr1.45 billion net surplus. Renault's capital was given a Fr2 billion boost by the Government in conjunction with the flotation, which raised Fr8.6 billion. The political success of the share sale was that two thirds of the traditionally militant workforce took up the offer.

Hopeful of full privatisation after this spring's presidential election, M. Schweitzer said that Renault had been a "good

investment" for the state. The Paris Bourse was unimpressed and marked down the share below the flotation price on the view that the operating profit, though tripled to Fr2.32 billion, was disappointing.

In spite of France's strong franc policy, Renault last year raised its market share in Europe to 11 per cent from 10.6 per cent. But the best year for the marque in a decade, with four models — Clio, Renault 19, Twingo and Laguna — are in Europe's top 20, failed to prevent operating profits on cars falling to Fr289 million from Fr905 million.

The Technocentre, due for completion in 1998, will house 6,300 engineers and specialists in all aspects of research and development. A central aim is to cut model development time to 38 months from the 58 months taken for the Safrane, saving up to Fr1.5 billion per model.

Banks are funding most of the cost of the centre, half an hour's drive from Paris. But Renault has an option to buy them out when, it hopes, prices on its old sites have recovered.

Objective measures can be used, say Brian Friedman and Oliver Overstall

How to set boardroom pay

Beneath all the headlines on directors' pay have been calmer voices working to restore credibility to remuneration committees. The Institute of Directors published guidelines on disclosure of directors' pay in January. The Greenbury committee, due to report in the summer, is also seeking to formulate rules on the subject. Arthur Andersen has also published a study to establish an objective and consistent methodology for benchmarking top executive pay.

Informed commentators call for greater disclosure. Although in the short run this is likely to create even more headlines, American experience is that public disclosure exerts a moderating influence on levels of executive reward.

In the US, the SEC requires public companies to publish a proxy statement with their annual accounts. This statement contains more detail of executive remuneration than is required in the UK. For instance, it must contain precise descriptions of salary, bonuses and stock options for each of the five most highly compensated executives, identified by name. Options are valued to provide shareholders with a measure of inherent value within each option grant.

The format of the data is standardised so that it can be assimilated quickly by the reader. By contrast, in the UK the level and format of disclosure can vary considerably. The New York Stock Exchange



Brian Friedman, left, and Oliver Overstall favour benchmarks

also requires additional disclosure, such as proof that shareholders' approval has been sought for share awards, including full disclosure of the number, price, period during which options will be issued, any terms for exercise and the maximum number of options that may be awarded to any individual.

Proxy statements must also contain a report by the remuneration committee describing the policy adopted and the means used to determine executive compensation. Whether this level of detailed disclosure will emerge as a recommendation of the Greenbury committee remains to be seen. In

any event, one possibility must be a move towards US-style proxy statements.

The fundamental question remains — how should directors' pay be set? A reliance on following what others do has become notorious for tightening the salary spiral. Rather, what the Institute of Directors calls the "range and weight of responsibilities" of the director and "appropriate market considerations" should be taken into account in setting, first and foremost, the basic salary.

Arthur Andersen has developed a method of assessing reward linked to the size and complexity of

an organisation. Apart from size (market capitalisation, turnover and number of employees), factors considered include the internationality, breadth of products and markets, risk, regulatory and competitive environment and rates of change experienced by the organisation.

Incentive/bonus payments to top executives have been particularly notorious — the Arthur Andersen study found no significant correlation between bonuses and company performance as measured by total shareholder return. In the US, a full description of incentive plans, whether they be long, medium or short term, has to be included in the proxy statement.

Under current UK disclosure requirements, it is often difficult to discern what is going on. Leading companies are, however, responding to the current environment by heading calls for greater disclosure and clarity.

One logical outcome of this trend will be an increasing desire among companies and their shareholders for bonuses to be benchmarked against comparable organisations.

Benchmarking bonus plans based on standardised measures of corporate performance is achievable. Benchmarking bonus plans based on personal performance may be just a pipedream.

Brian Friedman and Oliver Overstall lead the Senior Executive Pay practice within Arthur Andersen.

Accountants boring? Not likely

GEOFF WHITTINGTON has always been an iconoclast. And as Price Waterhouse Professor of Financial Accounting at Cambridge, his powers show no signs of waning. His recent annual Aberystwyth lecture was on the theme of "Is accounting becoming too interesting?" His opening summed up the dilemma.

"Goethe wrote double-entry accounting is one of the finest inventions of the human spirit — unfortunately he was joking." But he went on to describe the huge strides accountants have made in the past 25 years. The real question seemed to be how such a boring profession has attracted so many top graduates, shown huge growth and come to affect everyone in the land.

The attraction of graduates he dealt with easily. At an induction talk he once gave in Bristol, "when I asked 42 students how many thought that accounting would be interesting only seven hands were raised in support. When I asked them whether they thought that accounting would lead to a well-paid job, all 42 students raised at least one hand: some raised both."

But this has brought its own problems. "Accounting," he said, "has become interesting to the public outside the profession, and many within it find the glare of publicity unwelcome — they feel accounting has become too interesting." That simply means accountants like greater income and influence but have not yet



ROBERT BRUCE

taken the responsibilities on board. Nowhere is that more true than in the professional bodies.

In particular, Whittington looked at the English ICA, partly because it is statistically the dominant body and partly because he is a member. "The future of the English ICA," he said, "cannot be viewed with unalloyed optimism. There are three long-running pressures that will continue to make life for the ICA ever more interesting: integration of the profession, apparent alienation of many individual members and regulatory pressures."

None of these is a new problem. But this week, integration problems are again to the fore. Last Friday, the council of the CIMA, the management accounting

body, voted to take the process of merging with the English ICA to a more detailed stage. The council of the English ICA will vote on the same idea next Wednesday. It is thought a two-stream body with 90,000 members in industry and 50,000 in practice is proposed. But the education systems would be different and the title "chartered accountant" would not apply to all.

It is difficult to see what the English ICA is really up to. Launching its advertising campaign to stress the value of being a chartered accountant at the same time as attempting to merge with people whose right to be called chartered accountants it has repeatedly blocked made no sense.

But the answer to the question of the English ICA's long-term motives could perhaps be found in some of Whittington's figures. These showed that the English ICA student intake for 1992-93 was lower than that of 1969 and, at 4,074 people, well down on the glory years of 1986-87 with 6,287 or 1989-90 with 6,894 students.

It is students, as both the CIMA and the certified accountants know, that turn into good long-term income. The English ICA finds itself in a position where it needs much more income and, the cynics point out, merging two bodies, cutting the overheads and increasing membership, and hence income, by 40,000 or so members, is not a bad strategy.

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Shares squeezed higher at close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	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THE TIMES THURSDAY MARCH 30 1995

NEW
TRAVEL IN
CALL NOW FOR A BROCHURE

FLY
WORLDWIDE
AMERICAN AIRLINES

FLY
ALASKA
HAWAII
JAPAN
KOREA
MEXICO
PHILIPPINES
THAILAND
TAIWAN
HONG KONG
INDONESIA
MALAYSIA
SINGAPORE
AUSTRALIA
NEW ZEALAND
AFRICA
EUROPE
AMERICA

FLY

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

Leading article, page 19

Dwyler	10	1.8	27.51	91	5.4	88	6	95	284
York	3	3.0	30.45	92	6.2	96	8	96	283
Myers Creek	11.3	1.5	30.41	96	0	81	18	97	150
SOUTH GLAMORGAN									
Incyn Glamorgan	4	1.7	30.01	89	1.5	73	25	108	107
Merthyr Tydfil	4	1.7	30.01	89	3.2	92	23	106	107
Cardiff	4.5	1.4	33.00	91	1.0	88	23	98	205
Rhondda	2.4	2.8	32.41	91	4.5	06	17	94	210
Rhymney Valley	2.8	2.6	34.0	94	1	77	15	98	219
Taff-Ely	2.3	2.3	35.76	88	4	73	15	102	130
POWYS									
Breconshire	3.9	1.7	28.45	95	6	81	16	101	145
Montgomeryshire	2.4	0.7	31.06	93	8	81	16	101	145
Radnorshire	4.4	0	35.74	93	2.3	81	11	101	127
SOUTH GLAMORGAN									
Cardiff	5.8	2.3	35.19	98	7.2	89	16	98	152
Valley of Glamorgan	3.2	2.7	35.76	98	10.9	96	16	102	151
WEST GLAMORGAN									
Port Talbot	5.7	1	32.35	85	1	71	13	101	128
Neath	4.3	2.5	32.35	86	1	79	13	101	128
Neath Port Talbot	4.3	2.5	32.35	86	1	79	13	101	128
Neath	5	2	32.35	86	1	79	13	101	128

CONCERT

Royal Dutch treat

Concertgebouw/
Chaïly
Barbican

THE Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra has always had many fine qualities, strings with a rich sheen from top to bottom of the register; a well-rounded woodwind choir; a unity of ensemble which convinces you that every player knows every note not just of his or her own part but of the entire score. Those attributes were all on display last Tuesday.

Riccardo Chailly, the Royal Concertgebouw's chief conductor since 1988, tends to show a reliable pair of hands rather than any fiery extravagance. He brought to Richard Strauss's tone poem *Ein Heldenleben* at the end of this concert all the opulence of sonority one could ask for, all the clarity of balance which such dense scoring dictates. There was also some wonderfully poised solo violin playing from one of the orchestra's two joint leaders. But this piece needs an imperious self-awareness which it here lacked.

That misgiving might be technically analysed and put down to minuscule shortcomings in departments such as dynamic contrast, shaping of phrase and intensity of tone quality. None of those things were lacking, however, in Beethoven's *Egmont Overture*, which opened the concert. Here Chailly and his band were alive to every tension, every turn of this militaristic drama.

To hear them play Beethoven in such a manner must have cheered the heart of Maria Joao Pires, whose account of the same composer's Third Piano Concerto, beautifully accompanied, was one of the most exquisite I have ever heard. Nothing was merely incidental: everything was weighted perfectly, coloured carefully and phrased with a sense of human breath so that one was compelled to hang on to every moment in dramatic, poetic or celebratory music alike. Pires is up there among the really great pianists of our own or any other time.

STEPHEN PETTITT

OPERA: A Shostakovich musical tame enough for Uncle Joe; a Handel curiosity; why *La Wally* should stay deadSong and dance: in Shostakovich's slight, tinkling musical comedy, *Chyomushki*, the residents of Cherry Trees Estate must fight petty corruption to build their "magic garden" in a Moscow high-rise

Paradise in trouble

Chyomushki
Lyric, Hammersmith

In his play *Master Class*, David Pownall imagines a confrontation between Stalin and Shostakovich. "Purge the misery," cries Uncle Joe. "Change misery into delight." The great composer finds himself obsequiously setting to music a crazy tale about tigers and lions while the great dictator enjoins him to embrace melody and shun atonal rubbish: "I don't want you taking it to pieces and kicking it around until it's unrecognisable."

But on the evidence of Pimlico Opera's production of Shostakovich's musical comedy, *Chyomushki*, Stalin had no need to get exercised. The composer could write as mellifluously, if not as tunelessly, as Offenbach, Sullivan or Lehár. He could set a silly story to derivative music; and he did so even after Stalin's death. *Chyomushki* was first performed in 1959, during the Khrushchev thaw, but you cannot believe this tiny, tinkling confection would have caused much offence in Stalin's bleak midwinter.

"Chyomushki" apparently means Cherry Trees Estate, which is one of those vast apartment blocks that mar the Moscow skyline but at least provide a little cramped shelter for its huddled masses. There is a hint of nostalgia in the musical for those parts of the old city that

have succumbed to the bulldozers, but it is not to be taken too seriously. Sasha and Masha, for whom marriage means meeting during the day and sleeping in separate dorms at night, regard Chyomushki as a potential paradise. So do the supporting characters, who include a feisty woman construction worker called Lusya, a perky explosives expert called Boris and the vampish Vava and her city-slicker spouse, Drebyednyetsov.

These last two provide what little conflict the evening possesses, for they are surreptitiously in cahoots with the estate manager, Barabashkin. Walls are being knocked down and the two-room flats meant for our heroes transformed into a four-room one for the villains. But before this wrinkle can become a knot, Drebyednyetsov is sacked, presumably by wise city fathers off-stage, and the cast is left to go on building its "magic garden" and singing mindless ditties.

Both David Pountney, who adapted the original libretto, and Gerard McBurney, who re-orchestrated the music, suggest in the programme that there is something

gently subversive about Shostakovich's contribution. If so, it is on a par with the insolence of the journalist in *Beyond the Fringe* who boasted of thinking rebellious thoughts about Lord Beaverbrook while slavishly obeying him. To write satirically of housing problems and the corruption of minor functionaries was permissible in the old Soviet Union and Shostakovich embellishes the story with nothing that sounds Weillan, Sondheimian, or even slightly outré and odd.

If you learnt that Nietzsche wrote nursery rhymes, or Aeschylus limericks, you would doubtless be intrigued; but eventually you would have to ask if the rhymes and limericks were any good. It is the same here. Once you have stopped being surprised that Shostakovich wrote musical comedy at all, you are likely to appreciate why doing so made him "cringe with shame". Nor does he get much posthumous help from Lucy Bailey's direction, Paul Andrews's cardboard-cartoon décor or performers who sing very sweetly but (Janet Pullerlove's Vava the notable exception) act woodenly. Where is the imaginative originality, the sly satiric edge? Nowhere at all.

BENEDICT
NIGHTINGALE

Handel with sauce

Deidamia
Britten Theatre, RCM

THE London Handel Society's collaboration with the Royal Schools' Vocal Faculty — the former provides orchestra and impetus, the latter singers and theatre — usefully plugs gaps in the capital's operatic experience. Eighteen months ago they gave the rarely performed *Stroe*, and this week's offering as part of the London Handel Festival is *Deidamia*, the composer's last opera. It has not been seen here for nearly 30 years.

It is a curious work, with detached, ironic content typical of Handel's late period. The action is actually rather saucy, centering on Achilles hiding on the island of Scyros dressed as a girl in order to avoid call-to-arms for the Trojan War — one of opera's first known draft-dodgers. He whistles away the time in dalliance with King Lycomedes's daughter Deidamia, rather to the surprise of the latter's confidante, Nereia, who is at first unaware of the disguise.

Ulysses and *Phoenix*, Prince of Argos, arrive to flush Achilles out and establish that this girl is no girl by paying court to him/her, which upsets previously established amatory arrangements no end. Much of this takes place during a

hunt, as might indeed occur today in some of the better counties. Traditions die hard.

The ending is even more curious. Achilles departs enthusiastically for death and glory, leaving Deidamia heartbroken. But the cheerful final duet is for the heroine and the instrument of her misery, Ulysses, with Achilles merely looking on, and the final chorus acknowledges the transitory nature of human affection.

Not all the score is top-drawer Handel, but enough of it is. That duet is superb, and so is Deidamia's outburst of rage at Ulysses for destroying her idyll. There is also a charming aria for the King about the pleasures of peace

and quiet in old age — Handel at his most urbane. The score was conducted with good dramatic impulse by Denis Darlow, though some cuts were to be regretted — it is not a particularly long work. Mike Ashman's gently larky production had much charm, as did Bernard Cusshaw's set (a sunny beach with a nice derangement of obelisks) and his time-traveling costumes.

Handel needs great singing, and my heart sank in a generally nervy and insecure first act, but the students pulled themselves together for the remaining two and delivered performances of pleasing accomplishment.

Particularly notable were Tobias Cole (Ulysses), a young Australian counter-tenor with bright, clear tone and admirable precision in passage-work, and Jeni Bern (Deidamia) and Margaret Kelly Cook (Nereia), both blessed with warm soprano tone and secure technique. Franziska Whelan made a tomboyish Achilles, and her grainy mezzo is as full of character as it is of promise. Repeat performances are tonight and tomorrow.

RODNEY MILNES

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THEATRE

Dinkie, dogged Diggers

PHOEBE is a dog whose arrival at the home of a couple of Australian dinkies (double income, no kids) upheaves their lives. This much was revealed in the press release, and my spirits fell.

But Michael Gow's short play turns out to be a good deal more rewarding than an exposure to Aussie dog-sopiness would have been. The dinkies, Helen and Frazer, have been doing very nicely in their respective jobs: both are seemingly out-front with their feelings and demands and congratulate one another on having eliminated conflict from their lives. In short, they are a couple of nervous breakdowns waiting to happen, and the pet they agree to look after is the catalyst for the calamity.

Inevitably, they become fond of the creature, enjoy taking her on long walks, and just as this change of heart is becoming a mite cloying, Frazer loses her. From this moment on their lives crack. As Frazer searches the local

Cate Blanchett and Colin Moody in *Sweet Phoebe*Sweet Phoebe
Warehouse, Croydon

pounds, his previously suppressed rage blasts into the open. As Helen scours Sydney's vast suburbia, she glimpses wretched and exotic lives hitherto unknown to her. The detailed reports of these sorites are acted out with a vehemence that seems at first too peculiar, so that I suspected Gow of using them as a travelogue on Sydney's various underbellies. But the vigour of the writing and the passion of Cate Blanchett's increasingly agitated re-enactments uncover something else. The Bohemian cameradic and desperate loneliness she encounters — the house-

wife comically sidelining as a dominatrix, the sudden elation of singing *Only You* in a Korean restaurant — all show her the inadequacy of her clean and ordered existence. Blanchett's performance moves persuasively between puzzlement, nervous certainty and grief, strongly supported by Colin Moody, who charts Frazer's struggle through destructive fury to his tearful, closing appeal.

JEREMY KINGSTON

DANCE: Jasper Conran dresses to kill

An ugly duckling

Swan Lake
New Victoria
Theatre, Woking

decorated, just a dense expanse of purple blue columns and arches, outlined in gold, that is visually anaesthetising (although Odile's black tutu is truly stunning against it). Only in the two lakeside scenes does Conran evoke the tremors of a dangerous naturalism, of passions unleashed, with huge jagged rocks jutting over the lake of tears.

The producer, Galina

Sarnova, is also to blame for the superficial pretification. Although we are treated to a short prologue showing how the evil magician Von Rothbart was able to transform Princess Odette into a swan, Sarnova has given Siegfried little dramatic detail to develop his character in Act 1. Where are the moments that describe his disaffection and his rebellion? What motivates his love for Odette?

The ball scene is another missed opportunity. The Queen Mother's admonition to her son to choose a bride is only fleetingly etched, so that his betrayal of Odette lacks

ironic punch. Choreographically, too, this is the weakest scene, with national dances that have little ethnic flavour and even less vigour.

On top of all this, you have performers — on Tuesday night at least — unable to plumb the poetic depths of metaphor. Hans Nilsson as Prince Siegfried was a slender presence who wandered through his quest like a bewildered child. Simon Stewart was miscast as Von Rothbart. By contrast, Daria Klimontova came across as thoroughly accomplished. Her Odette was effortlessly fluent, her Odile playfully wicked. But it all felt a bit like *Swan Lake* by numbers, even though conductor Alan Barker did his best to inject musical zest into a lifeless evening.

DEBRA CRAINE

Silliness reaches its peak

La Wally
Bloomsbury

THE question remains, is the rest of the opera really worth enduring for the famous *Diva* aria? Toscanini thought yes, and christened his poor daughter Wally; history so far has said no, and the opera has not been seen or heard of professionally in England since 1919.

No one has yet convinced me that it is not a Thoroughly Silly Opera, interesting enough to cross-reference to Puccini (whom Catalani taught) and Wagner (whom he revered), but peopled with cardboard creatures.

University College Opera is justifiably praised for its 45 years of edifications from *Halka* to *Fuad*. But when the orchestra (conducted by David Drummond) can scarcely get its fingers round the score, when adequate casting seems impossible, and when the director takes Catalani's melodrama at face, alpine-kitsch value, then it begins to feel suspiciously like a waste of an evening.

Julia Hollander, and her designer Taha Kharibian, have rigged up a diagonal of a ski slope, variously covered by white sheet, or alpine-meadow throw, trained a motley band of villagers to dance (if not to sing) round it, and given it an impressive *fracturing* for the last act (which also contains some of the best, key music).

There is much clambering

up the slope, much pointing to distant horizons, much moving on cue to the music. And there is something of a virtuoso denouement when Gellner, the spurned lover, climbs through a trap door in the slope, drops on to La Wally's glacial bed, and pushes her back up the slope. Ropes then haul up La Wally, with her true love Hagenbach in deadly embrace, while the poor rejected wretch quietly slits his wrists on her bed.

This tragedy might not have provoked quite so much unseemly (if discreetly stifled)

laughter had its hero and heroine had the voices to suspend our disbelief for just one moment. Only Anne Gerbic's Walther (Wally's companion) and Margareta Hillerud's Afra (Hagenbach's illegitimate daughter) seemed to have taken any care to nurture their voices.

La Wally herself (Elizabeth Hetherington), played as a deranged Ophelia in nightie and mountain boots, was under considerable strain. Donald Stephenson as Hagenbach was either ill, or having serious problems with his voice. I fear for his larynx, and hope things improve for Friday and Saturday.

HILARY FINCH

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GUINNESS

Nigella Lawson acclaims Camille Paglia's determination to wrest feminism back from those who want women to remain victims

Our sometime sister, now our queen

VAMPS & TRAMPS
By Camille Paglia
Viking, £17

I took Camille Paglia 20 years to get her first book, *Sexual Personae*, published: since then the feminist that other feminists love to hate has scarcely been out of the public prints. The glossy magazine and trashy scandal sheet are as much her forum as the scholarly paper. She is the don made over as diva, and how she exults in her role: on the cover of her new collection of essays, *Vamps & Tramps*, she is photographed, made up to the hilt and posturing, Emma Peel-like, on the cover. Inside, where it matters, she poses less. Her prose is unshakably honest, lucid and, as ever, a masterpiece of camp and vertiginous invective.

In fact, it's more than that. Those who seek to condemn her as a publicity-seeking nutcase — she's that, too — choose to ignore the slash-and-burn fierceness of her intelligence or the immense seriousness and capaciousness of her learning. Paglia herself might say that it is their ignorance that pointedly prevents their recognising the real thing when they see it. "Is there intellectual life in Ameri-

ca?" she asks. "At present, the answer is no." Writers who do not meet with political approval are edged out of the syllabus, "theory" has supplanted literature, and criticism has degenerated into moralistic text-trashing. But it is the "snide ahistoricism" of the women's movement that is Paglia's particular bugbear. "One of the great lies of women's studies," she writes, "is that European art history was written by white males and that feminism has conclusively rewritten that history by discovering and restoring major female artists excluded from the pantheon by patriarchal conspiracy. But European art history was not just written but

created by white males. We may lament the limitations placed on women's training and professional access in the past, but what is done cannot be undone... We will never get great art from women if their education exposes them only to the second-rate and if the idea of greatness itself is denied."

As a phallus-worshipping lesbian, Paglia's stance is probably unique. She is most famous for insisting that if women had ruled the world we would still be living in grass huts. She likes to tease: but she means it. In England, where we have a literary tradition of rudeness — viz. *Waugh père et fils* — Paglia's spectacular and vicious gibes may perhaps be less guiltily enjoyed. She is particularly unsparring of Andrea Dworkin, who "like Kate Millett has turned a garish history of mental instability into feminist grand opera". Dworkin, she sneers exultingly, "is a type that I recognise after 22



Paglia: don made over as diva

years of teaching. I call her The Girl with the Eternal Cold. This was the pudgy, clumsy, whiney child at summer camp who was always spilling her milk, dropping her lollipop in the dirt, getting a

cramp on the hike, a stone in her shoe, or a bee in her hair."

Paglia's aim is not merely to upset Dworkin, but to discredit her particular brand of "Infernal Feminism", with its bedlam of bellyachers, anorexics, bulimics, depressives, rape victims and incest survivors. Feminism has become a catch-all vegetable drawer where bunches of clingy sisters can store their mouldy neuroses. And it is important that it be discredited, not from the perspective of the religious Right but by someone who is fired with the muscular egalitarianism of 1960s left-wing ideology.

Paglia is right to fight, kicking and screaming, against the offensively cramping view of women as perpetual victims. It is important to wrest feminism back from the puritans and phillistines. Paglia's irritation with the women's movement is not merely with its sentimental idealisation of women

and demonisation of men, but with its failure to recognise the true oppressor: "It is nature, not patriarchal society, that puts motherhood and career in a collision course," she retorts.

"Fascist" she's called when she airs these views: the urge to deny and resist what she says goes to the guns. But the failure of feminism to be honest about the realities of motherhood is something that remains to be properly charted by those who with justification feel let down by it.

On the abortion issue Paglia is no less impatient. The feminist tag of "pro-choice" is, she scorns, pusillanimous, and reveals feminism's failure to accept the violence inherent in any termination of life. She herself is "fervently pro-abortion". Her rhetoric, blazingly honest, can hit with the shock of the true: "Unlike the feminist establishment, I recognise that abortion is killing. But slaughter

and harvest... are the record of human sustenance and survival for 10,000 years... Modern woman has become an agent of Darwinian triage. It is or should be ethically troubling: abortion pits the stronger against the weaker, and only one survives."

Paglia is possessed of a teacher's ability to convey passion. She is brilliant, queenly, cruel, boastful and egomaniacal. Nearly every essay — on a dizzying variety of subjects, from D.H. Lawrence to Hillary Clinton, taking in Kenneth Clarke, rape, pornography and Barbra Streisand — ripples with yapping self-regard. The appendix to the volume is in the form of a collection of cartoons featuring her and an itemisation of all articles mentioning her.

It should irritate and yet it exhilarates. She isn't someone you either love or hate: she's someone you love and hate. Reading Paglia, an American critic once said, is like drinking three espressos on the trot. She is the scholar as rapist. Camille Paglia is no woman of straw: her high opinion of herself is properly earned.

Take our money or open up the Box?

This is the story of the first two decades of competitive broadcasting in this country, told from a BBC viewpoint. It opens in 1955 with Auntie's top brass stuffily declining invitations to the Guildhall banquet to launch Independent Television. It ends in 1974 with the Governors criticising BBC Television's general election coverage as wasteful and over-complicated; one of them, the poet Roy Fuller, described it as "a late Roman Empire symptom of decadence".

The book is organised chronologically, and much of the material illuminates episodes in national as well as in broadcasting history. The whole of the second chapter, for instance, is given over to the Suez crisis, during which for a time the very existence of the BBC appeared to be in question — Briggs draws a parallel with the threat posed to the infant BBC in Reith's day by the General Strike.

Another chapter is devoted to the controversial regime of Hugh Greene. "One of us," said a smug headline in *Ariel*, the BBC's staff magazine, when he took over at the beginning of the 1960s. Briggs is probably correct in saying that Greene retained the support of most of the staff throughout his tenure, although his policies and management style were by no means universally admired inside the corporation. What is indisput-

able is that as the years passed he offended a dangerously large number of politicians and a substantial section of public opinion. In particular it was not at all clever to allow himself to be cast so prominently in the demonology of Mary Whitehouse.

Asa Briggs's painstaking study of board minutes has allowed him to pinpoint, towards the end of the Greene era, a defining moment in the corporation's history. He correctly identifies "a landmark statement in the history of the BBC" —

an assertion by the Director-General that news was *sui generis*, "a branch of output unlike any other". It was this singling out of one aspect of broadcasting as different from all the rest which made possible

the emergence of news (and later that unsatisfactory circus-horse called news and current affairs) as a powerful — and disruptive — state within a state.

A touch wearily, Briggs reminds us that he is not the BBC's "official" historian. Only the most careless reader could have supposed that he was. He has, once again, written much more than an institutional history. He is concerned with organisation, but he is not less concerned with programmes; he is keenly interested in policy, but he is fascinated by people.

The style seems crisper than in earlier volumes. The narrative is controlled and assured, with telling



Dr Who and the Celestial Toymaker (1966), with William Hartnell (left) as the first Dr Who. It was broadcast in black and white

variations of pace and an effective use of light and shade. An important new source has been the BBC's Oral History Project, which Frank Gillard has been conducting since 1972: quite a number of the retired BBC panjandrums he has interviewed have waived the condition that their material should not be used in their lifetime.

The book benefits from a cleaner type-face than its predecessors (it was typeset, I notice, at Pondicherry, in southern India). There is also a useful — and highly entertaining — chronological table. Prepared by Leonard Miall, it runs to more than 60 pages and correlates BBC and ITV developments with events in the United Kingdom and in the world at large; it is good to be reminded that Khrushchev de-

nounced Stalin at the 20th Party Congress in 1956 only four days after *Muffin the Mule* had transferred from the BBC to ITV.

This is a publishing project which began with an invitation from the BBC in 1958, during the distinguished director-generalship of Sir Ian Jacob. Briggs, that is to say, has been at work on his *History of Broadcasting in the United Kingdom* for half as long again as it took Gibbon to chronicle the 13 centuries that separated the age of Trajan from the fall of Constantinople.

The achievement is monumental. This is the fifth volume to appear, and although it carries the story forward only until 1974, there will not be another. Briggs lays down

his pen with notable and dead-pan economy: "All else for this historian is round the corner." I imagine he shares the melancholy Gibbon felt at the knowledge that he had "taken an everlasting leave of an old and agreeable companion". But behind his discreet envoi I also detect considerable disappointment and possibly some indignation at the manner in which the BBC has resolved to give the quiescent to this magisterial enterprise.

Briggs notes that the BBC archives, on which his history has been primarily based, remain incompletely catalogued and that the small *History of Broadcasting Unit*, which made possible the preparation of a standard history of the BBC, disappeared in 1992. His aim has been to provide a work of

reference for scholars outside the corporation as well as for the fast diminishing number of people inside it. "The BBC," he declares, "needs a memory bank." Without the kind of framework he has constructed over the years, scholars will find the writing of further monographs well-nigh impossible.

The governors of the BBC should not be misled by Lord Briggs's good manners. They appear at the moment to believe that the Huxley/Birt "reforms" have done the trick, and that in the matter of next year's Charter renewal they are home and dry. Unless they show signs of remembering that the archives are an important national resource of which they are the trustees, they deserve an unpleasant surprise.

The Europe of the functionaries

Bruce Anderson

JEAN MONNET
First Statesman of
Interdependence
By François Duchêne
Norton, £22

JACQUES DELORS
and European Integration
By George Ross
Polity Press, £45

Gaullists, but he did play a key role in co-ordinating the Allied supply effort during the First World War. At the end, Britain rewarded him with an honorary knighthood.

In the late 1930s, he realised that France was in peril because her air force was wholly unequal to the Luftwaffe, so he reactivated his supply network. On the eve of the war and in its early months, he threw all his energies into trying to buy warplanes in America. But he was frustrated both by the dilatoriness of French politics and by the constraints which neutrality imposed on Roosevelt. Finally, the *Blitzkrieg* put an end to his efforts.

He then played a crucial role in mediating between Roosevelt and de Gaulle. De Gaulle could see little merit in this civil servant who was too friendly with foreigners and who insisted on discussing economics at the dinner table. Monnet was more generous. He realised early on that de Gaulle's exalted estimate of his own importance was justified. From then on, he worked to protect the general from the Americans, and from himself. There was little gratitude.

This is all a splendid story, but alas, François Duchêne is incapable of telling it. His prose lacks any animation; every sentence is covered with a thin film of dust. It is clear that he understands the importance and the drama of the events he is narrating, and his judgment is sound. He can think and feel history; what a pity that he cannot write it.

De Gaulle and Monnet would make a fascinating study on the theme of Joan of Arc versus Père Goriot: two aspects of the eternal France. Their relations remained tense in the postwar era. Although he was in no sense anti-American, and endorsed Churchill's concept of concentric circles, Monnet believed in a European community, including Britain, as a counterweight to the United States. He also refused to concede the British any special status. We should take our

place in Europe on equal terms, and not as one of the Big Three, condescending to the others. In this, Monnet's grasp of postwar geopolitics was shrewder than Churchill's, but unacceptable to de Gaulle. Monnet, who deplored the Gaullist approach to Europe, was furious when the general vetoed British membership.

At that stage, the man of destiny seemed to have defeated the *fonctionnaire*. But that was only in the short run. In the quarter of the century since de Gaulle's departure, French policy towards Europe has been run on Monnet's lines much more than on Gaullist ones. The tortoise has a clear lead over the hare.

Which brings us to another *fonctionnaire*, Jacques Delors. George Ross has assembled some fascinating material in his account of the Delors *Cabinet* in operation. I defy all but the most fanatical British Europhile to read it without recoiling, for it is a study of a political culture which is both alien and threatening. There is one note of comfort. Ross is convinced that Maastricht was a defeat for the federalists and that, with enlargement, the Monnet vision of a Europe evolving towards supra-nationality is no longer sustainable. The future lies inevitably with a Europe of variable geometry.

Ross's book is indispensable for anyone concerned with the politics of Europe: it is also full of anecdotes and aperçus. But the writing style has all the freshness of a week-old baguette. Why is it that devotees of the European ideal produce prose that would just about do for a memorandum on paperclips?

Last gasp of the café culture

Edward Marriot

A NEW GRAND TOUR
By Godfrey Hodgson
Viking, £16

ONCE, the Grand Tour of Europe was undertaken only by a handful of well-connected young men wishing to polish their education. And it was an adventure — when Robert Byron and Richard Burton visited Greece and Arabia, they risked more than their traveller's cheques. Now the slide into mass tourism seems unstoppable. Ever since Thomas Cook began his tours in the mid-19th century, the sights have gradually become obscured by the volume of people who visit them. The Acropolis in Athens is now closed because of the erosion caused by tourists' feet.

Clearly, says Godfrey Hodgson, a "New Grand Tour" is required. The tourist should look deeper into the culture and influences that have created Europe's cities. "By exploring a new past the traveller gives himself a new future," he writes.

Hodgson, a former foreign editor, has created a work of impressive research, which tells the stories of seven cities: London, Rome, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Prague and St Petersburg. He has an eye for the telling detail, such as the number of pubs in London in 1890 — a staggering 9,000. He sketches the lives of the cities through their most striking inhabitants — Fyodor Dostoevsky in St Petersburg, Albert Einstein in Berlin, Gustav Mahler in Vienna.

He reminds us, too, of the grim past. How illuminating to know that, in St Petersburg during the 900 days' siege at the hands of the Nazis, some people turned cannibal,

selling human flesh in the market; or to see Vienna in its historical context, as a fortress city, barricaded at the edge of Europe, against the Continent's most fearsome enemy — the Turk.

Hodgson paints a broad picture of a Europe becoming daily more lost — of cities whose culture and history is suffocating under high-rise car parks and office blocks. Technology, with its video recorders, stereos and home computers, is the enemy of the city. If you can communicate over the Internet why go to cafes? The future looks bleak. This is Hodgson's polemical message, and it is the book's strongest point.

For the modern European tourist, the book would make a valuable and diverting companion. As a guide for the armchair traveller, however, *A New Grand Tour* is altogether less gripping. In attempting the grand picture, he has sacrificed real depth. In the chapter on Paris he slanders with disproportionate relish over the city's sex life, and who needs to be told that Freud was a "titanic figure in the development of the modern mind"? But Hodgson transmits a real enthusiasm for Europe's collective urban greatness and fascination. Its squallor and culture.

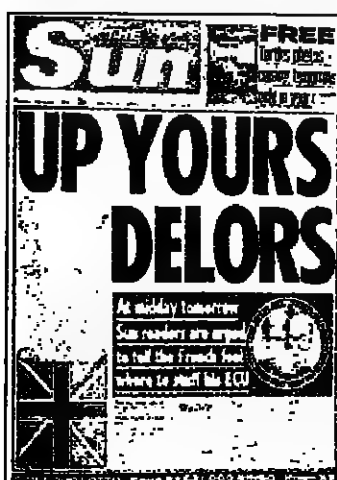
John Paul II: Polish cavalry?

Hebblethwaite, and the omission is not made good in the biographical introduction to the book. He takes a dim view of the Pope's approach to women priests, particularly the apparent attempt to bind his predecessors in the matter, in contrast to the more cautious Paul VI. Quite rightly, he worries about the excessive influence of Opus Dei during this pontificate.

However, he does credit to positive side of John Paul II, whom he compares to the Polish hero-men who charged tanks, a glorious but ultimately futile episode, and this he locates precisely in his Polishness. The Pope is conscious of the social distortions created by capitalism by virtue of his experience of communism; his concern with Jewish relations may stem in part from his personal friendship with Jews and his proximity to Auschwitz. As a Slav, the Pope is sensitive to the different theological traditions of the Eastern churches. These are all wholesome influences on Catholicism, as Hebblethwaite acknowledges.

And what of the future? After the breathless pace of the present pontificate, he suggests it might be no bad thing to have a Pope whose style is more receptive to positive aspects of the modern world. Or perhaps a Pope who returns to his primary pastoral function, that of Bishop of Rome. But the succession is not yet an issue. Despite all the gloomy prognostications about his health, John Paul II is still with us. Peter Hebblethwaite, however, died after writing this book. Requiescat in pace.

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Worst enemy of his own promise

Peter Ackroyd on a splendid life of Cyril Connolly, the man of too many letters whose sybaritic career was redeemed by his generosity towards younger writers

Cyril Connolly was, in certain respects, a disappointed man. He aspired to the writing of fiction and serious criticism, but believed that he would be remembered only as a newspaper reviewer. There is nothing wrong with that, of course. It is a fine profession, as they said of Mrs Warren, and being both erudite and generous, he was perhaps the last of his race.

Yet he had wanted to be more, much more, than that. He had wanted to be an artist, not a journalist. But the truth is that he had neither the temperament nor the talent for the former role. He had the gift of creating an immaculate phrase, and then stringing it upon another one, but he lacked what might be called weight. He had no vision of the world; he was only a talented observer of it.

He seems to have arrived ready-made. At school he was described as a "peacock among fowls", and by the time he arrived at Oxford he already carried what Kenneth Clark described as "the millstone of promise" around his neck. He wore it in a very striking fashion; it glittered even in the scintillating company of Brian Howard, Harold Acton and Evelyn Waugh.

Connolly once said that Oxford was "the cloakroom where I left my youth", and with youthfulness he lost any real hope that great things might be achieved. When he entered the world for the first time, he drifted. He abandoned any sense of purpose or direction, although it cannot be said that he had a very firm one in the first place. He was at last rescued by an elderly American literature, Logan Pearsall Smith, who is perhaps best remembered for his aphorism, "An improper mind is a perpetual feast". Connolly became his secretary, always an interesting position for a young man, and was soon introduced to the assorted semi-nomads who then, as now, comprise "literary London". He never guessed that the real work was being done elsewhere. As Virginia Woolf said of another eminent reviewer, Desmond MacCarthy, "Desmond was the most gifted of us all. But why did he never do anything?"

That might have been Connolly's own epitaph. He followed the now well-beaten path of cultured young men: he took up novel reviewing for a weekly periodical, he wrote an occasional essay on a subject of no importance, and made an unsuccessful attempt at a book. Then he married a rich young woman, not a moment too soon, and decided to travel instead. On occasions Clive Fisher describes Connolly as a "romantic", but in fact his own subtitle — "A Nostalgic Life" — is closer to the truth. If there was romance, it was of the cheaper kind that entails pity for oneself and one's own shortcomings. He was simply too indolent and wayward to do anything about it.

So reviewing became his natural element. He went back to the newspapers, but at some point made the cardinal mis-

generation of English writers who have come so exclusively from the upper middle class and who have been so obsessed with their education. The result was, of course, that many of them remained perpetually immersed in their adolescence.

Certainly this was true of Connolly himself and, in Clive Fisher's account of his amours and alarms, there is no doubt that we find the footprints of a perpetual and often petulant youth. There is a full record here of his philandering, which led to various absurd scenes or confrontations: it seems that people insist upon leading difficult lives when they have very little else to do. He was a man of great intelligence which was consumed in conversation; he was a writer of immense discrimination and judgment, but he consigned those qualities to the obscurity of forgotten reviews.

Perhaps his most enduring claim to attention arises from his editorship of *Horizon* during the Second World War. There are some people who seem ideally suited to the editing of literary magazines — it requires a mixture of low cunning and immense charm — and under his direction that magazine became the single most important vessel of English letters since the days of the great 19th-century periodicals. Connolly published Orwell and Auden and Waugh (the magazine first printed *The Love Song*); he discovered Angus Wilson and Denton Welch.

Yet in the end he tired, as always, of his responsibilities. He drifted away once again. He signed various contracts for the writing of books, few of which were ever fulfilled. He married several times. He lay in the bath, and groaned. He joined *The Sunday Times* as their chief literary reviewer. He was always close to bankruptcy, he drank too much. In fact, prolonged exposure to Connolly's general sloth can prove wearisome; this is a relatively long book, and there may be a case for saying that Clive Fisher takes his subject a little more seriously — and at greater length — than he properly deserves.

CYRIL CONNOLLY
A Nostalgic Life
By Clive Fisher
Macmillan, £25

take of using the first person singular; there is nothing more depressing than a reviewer who takes himself, or herself, too seriously. Yet he was a clever and sensitive man, so his natural intelligence could not help breaking through — "Reviewing is a whole-time job with a half-time salary," he wrote, "... where nothing is secure or certain except the certainty of turning into a hack."

In fact he did try to be more than a hack, and managed to write a novel to which Fisher wisely allows only four pages. *The Rock Pool* resembles a work by George Orwell which has been heavily rewritten by Walter Pater. *Enemies of Promise* is a much more successful and interesting volume. Here with almost fatal precision Connolly suggests that drink, journalism and domesticity can ruin any aspiration towards literary achievement more revealing still is the final part of the book, in which he discusses his days at Eton with a certain charming morbidity. In that respect he was typical of his time: it is hard to think of another



Connolly at home with his daughter; he blamed "the pram in the hall" for his own laziness. His portrait by Stanley Devon hangs on the wall

But it is the only disadvantage in what is otherwise a splendid biography with a distinctive, sparkling and well-written narrative. Fisher's prose is redolent of the period which it describes and, despite the occasional majestic language, it maintains a broad and persuasive momentum. Cyril Connolly could not have been better served. Possibly he would have liked to have written it himself. But of course he would never have had the energy.

Annihilation and erasure

James Woodall

THE ASSAULT
By Reinaldo Arenas
Viking, £15

THE EVENT
By Juan José Saer
Secker's Tail, £9.99
paperback original

The iconic titles of these two short novels from Latin America belie a stylistic and thematic turbulence that places them outside any semblance of Anglo-American decorum. Yet they couldn't be more different. Reinaldo Arenas has already achieved some renown with *Before Night Falls*, a haunting memoir of his experiences as a homosexual writer in Fidel Castro's Cuba. His reputation is largely a posthumous one — he died of an AIDS-related illness aged 50 in New York in 1990, ten years after he finally left Cuba and persecution behind him. *The Assault* is the fifth book in a quintet he called his "Pentagonia", and the title is quite the best description of this final instalment.

The thrust of the plot is oedipalism in reverse, a ghastly celebration of matricide, with rape thrown in as a *deus ex machina*. A worker in an unnamed totalitarian state, its apparent indestructibility underlined by the leader being known as the "Representant", is in search of his mother: he has seen her gathering wood near the "National Sawmill", which means she is guilty of theft from the State. She thus needs to be eliminated. Her son sets out to kill her.

The inhabitants of this place, resembling Cuba painted by Max Ernst in hallucinogenic mood, have claws instead of hands. They copulate like beasts, and live under mad dictators from on high. There is a running joke throughout about crotches and buttocks: anyone caught looking at these risks "Annihilation and Erasure" forever.

The Representant has already abolished the night — it's now called "not-night" — and orders his subjects to worship him in vile acts of self-abuse and sacrifice. That he is meant to be Castro is beyond doubt, insofar as anyone in the novel can be called a "person". For those in the know, there are apparently portraits, too, of other Cubans in Arenas's life before he left the island. For the average reader, it is enough just to follow his clawed creatures naming and slaughtering their way through the novel as clear projections of the author's worst — and most infantile — nightmares.

The ferocity of Arenas's inventive does have an exuberant physicality. This is excremental stuff, though the blurb's comparison with Swift and Rabelais goes too far. Buñuel without the wit would be closer to the mark. I just sometimes wished for a joke along the lines of Woody Allen's dictator in his silliest

film *Bananas*, who, sporting regulation beard and cigar, decrees that everyone must now "wear their underpants on the outside" — but that would be far too tame here. There is a serious point to Arenas's satire: *The Assault's* narrative irrationality, replete with vicious misogyny, should not quite be taken as authorial madness. Arenas wanted rather to represent the consciousness of a wholly politicised world such as Cuba's, where people live in mental terror. But the signs are that Arenas

was so eaten up by bitterness by the time he wrote his last book that it is almost impossible for anyone who has not suffered his degree of humiliation to empathise with his vision. Juan José Saer is a quieter Latin American. *The Event*, first published in 1988, is set in the 19th century and follows the fortunes of a telepathist who retreats to the pampas. It is a good novel but not easy; Saer's descriptive prose is relentless and his characters are stiff. Altogether it strains with that wordy self-consciousness which so often dulls one's interest when reading the French New Novelists, who have influenced Saer. But after Arenas's slaughterhouse, Saer's pampas come almost as light relief.

Canada's man of destiny

Rachel Cusk

THE CUNNING MAN

By Robertson Davies
Viking, £15.50

For Robertson Davies, a life is a story. It begins with birth; it ends with death. What happens in between is anybody's guess: an adventure, a quest, a catalogue of mystery, a host of revelations both painful and benign. What is certain is that, once begun, Davies's stories are inescapable. The predestinarian of fiction is here inexorably bound with that of the individual: over both, a controlling intelligence reigns, threading events along strings of meaning, forging links to make human chains of fate.

The Cunning Man returns to Deptford territory, in its story of three men whose lives have been locked since boyhood in a mysterious orbit, the dance of their fates a choreography of love, chance, intellect, and of course geography: for this is Canada, where parochialism and aspiration conduct their slow arm wrestle, where the foothold of culture is uncertain, where personal liberty is both vertiginous and desolate. The growth of any sort of art in a new country — once colony, now independent but not really firm on its legs yet — is so wobbly and slow. Apart from politics, business and sport, nothing is very much valued here.

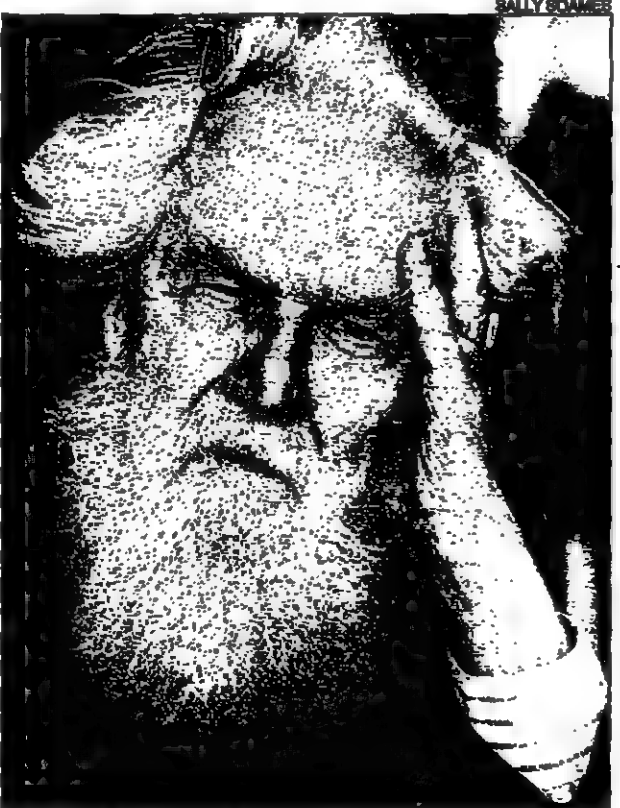
This vacuum enacts its own form of determinism; in it, the life of the mind can grow fetid and self-critical, but its barrenness can also inflict exaltation and flaccidity. A country in its infancy, a country with no memory, is capable of innocent but nonetheless potent cruelties. Jonathan Hullah, a successful unorthodox doctor famed for his unusual methods of diagnosis, is the "cunning man", the narrator, whose strange story of self-creation and survival contains the more wayward life of his friend Charlie Iredale, and the gentler stagnation of Brocky Gilmartin. As boys, the three were drawn from their disparate backgrounds by the elitist magnet of Colborne College, a private boarding school; they emerged yoked by friendship, their differences refined and focused, and the ensuing pulling and chaffing remains a sometimes faint but still continuous movement beneath the surface of their lives.

Hullah's childhood in the remote northern town of Sioux Lookout, where he became fascinated by the practices of an Indian witch-doctor called Elsie Smoke, contains the germ of his resilience: while his two friends were being preoccupied in manners and mores, acquiring the shells of European culture and religious attitudes in middle-class Salterton, Hullah was in the woods two thousand miles from Toronto. "I liked loneliness and I like it still... what the woods taught me is still at the heart of my life."

What the woods taught Hullah was to develop his instincts: for beauty, for pain, for right and wrong, and for truth. His approach to knowledge is empirical — "to learn to see what is right in front of one's nose; that is the task and a heavy task it is" — his appetite for art is selective, and his attraction to religion is part psychoanalytical curiosity, part Platonic appreciation. Brocky and Charlie, however, are both enamoured with the flamboyance of representation, Brocky a brilliant professor of literature who can't seem to find the time to write his own book, and Charlie, more dangerously, as a zealous curate whose High Anglicanism topples over into idolatry.

Davies's examination of the subject of spiritual theatre, the extravagant bridge made by beauty between worldliness and Godliness, centres around the church of St Aidan ("So High, indeed, that sometimes it seemed that the Roman Catholic Mass was a simplified version of their sung Eucharist"), where the spectacle of worship has become almost a ticket-selling enterprise, and where Charlie Iredale is set upon the course which will lead to his downfall.

The vicar of St Aidan's, Ninian Hobbes, drops dead at the altar after ingesting a



Davies: a controlling intelligence reigns over his fiction

Communion wafer. Hullah, a witness to the event, suspects foul play, but is prevented by Charlie from performing an examination: "We were members of two rival priesthods, he the Man of God and I the Man of Science."

This rivalry intensifies with the success of Hullah's clinic, which lies adjacent to St Aidan's and whose bell outtolls the church's own signal that a cure for human ills has been found. Hullah's quasi-Freudian approach to diagnosis, his belief that diseases are functions of mind, manifestations of consciousness and character, leads him to steady apprehensions of God, "the Divine Reality that we find in our minds... which is luminous, immemorial, and universal". Charlie, beset by visions and evangelical brain-fever, sees God where God is not and is benighted. Sacked from St Aidan's and banished to a remote rural parish, where there is little in organised religion to ravish the ear or eye, he undergoes a physical and mental breakdown.

Robertson Davies is a writer heavy with magic, and *The Cunning Man* will assuredly place any reader under his spell. Few living novelists can claim erudition, compassion, invention and, hardest of all, inimitability, in the same breath: Davies possesses them all, and must stand out as being among the best.

All Greek to her

Michael Arditti

BLACK SHAWL

By Victor Sage
Secker & Warburg, £9.99
paperback original

GREECE as a literary landscape has long been the scene for the romantic self-awakening of people from more northerly climes. Barbara, a 54-year-old woman who has recently undergone a hysterectomy and Kelly, a half-Irish, half-Sioux jewellery-designer, are the two latest fictional tourists to take an Aegean journey that will transform — and transfigure — their lives.

It is one of the nearest conceits of Victor Sage's novel that, although both are travelling to Thessaloniki to visit the same man, Roger, their paths never cross. Their lives are, however, linked not only through Roger but also Antigone, a young Greek feminist lawyer, as free a spirit as her classical counterpart.

The three women's experiences mirror and balance each other: this is the book's finest achievement. Sage inhabits the female body with total authority, but Sage's male characters seem less authentic. With the exception of Vangelis, a touchingly lovelorn widower, they are either

As in his first novel, *A Mirror For Larks*, Sage has adopted a continental canvas, carefully placing the novel in the context of Greek politics in 1967-68. His portrait of a scandal-ridden administration strikes many chords in the contemporary British breast. The discussion of domestic politics is, however, unnecessarily opaque; Sage does not so much assume a knowledge in his readers as ignore their ignorance.

Neither does he convince us that this discussion deserves such prominence. Apart from the familiar ironies of young men spouting slogans of liberation while continuing to browbeat women, there is little connection between the individual and the collective struggles. It is the personal, not the national, politics that

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Speculation suggests grand prix decision climbdown

By Oliver Holt

SPECULATION was growing last night that Michael Schumacher and David Coulthard might be restored to the first and second places they won, but were then stripped of, at the Brazilian Grand Prix on Sunday.

Schumacher, in a Benetton-Renault, and Coulthard, in a Williams-Renault, coasted home comfortably clear of Gerhard Berger in third place, but five hours after the race had finished, they were disqualified because of alleged irregularities in the Elf fuel used in their cars, apparently discovered by technicians from the International Motor Sport Federation (FIA).

The FIA announced yesterday that appeals against the decision lodged by Benetton and Williams would take place in Paris on April 13, four days after the next race, the Argentinean Grand Prix. As the FIA continued vigorously to protest their innocence, there were rumours that the FIA was preparing for a climb-down.

Both Flavio Briatore, the Benetton managing director, and Frank Williams, the Williams team owner, had threatened to withdraw their cars even before the race last Sunday after they were fined \$30,000 (about £20,000) each because of irregularities found in the fuel they had used in qualifying. Neither had different fuel to draw on for the race.

They were persuaded not to carry out their threat but encouraged to appeal once their drivers were disqualified. Both teams are understood to be hopeful of overturning the decision — gaining a judgment that would throw the sport into even greater confusion.

Williams said yesterday that internal tests on the suspect fuel had been carried out by Elf and had proved "satisfactory". "Do they think we would be so stupid as to test batch A — then take batch B with us to the race?" a spokeswoman for the French company said. "It is ridiculous."

Meanwhile, it appears that the mysterious manner of Schumacher's fluctuating weight has been dismissed without penalty. After dipping the scales at 77kg for the official weigh-in on Thursday, the German world champion lost more than five kilos in the space of three days, making him the envy of weight-watchers everywhere and leading to rumours that the initial measurement may have been inaccurate, with the potential to afford him an advantage. The FIA, however, stressed that his car conformed to regulations.

"The less I say about Schumacher's weight loss the better," Max Mosley, the FIA president, said. "What I can say officially is that it is of considerable academic interest to the medical profession."

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Cambridge juggle with different ideas

John Goodbody reports on a new coach's approach to building on the Boat Race success of 1993 and 1994

success of 1993 and 1994

It is one of sport's perennial problems: how do you change a winning combination without destroying the elements that made it successful?

For Cambridge, their victories in the past two Boat Races have brought an expectation of dominance that previously seemed to be the prerogative of Oxford, who had 16 successes and only one defeat between 1976 and 1992.

Although Cambridge have used most of the same training methods as in the past two



The Cambridge crew demonstrates its new-found skill during training. Photograph: Des Jensen

years, they have practised juggling and even had a session of the oriental martial arts to improve the squad's understanding of its physical potential.

Richard Phelps, the Cambridge president, who will be rowing in his third successive Boat Race, believes his crew's programme has more maturity this year as the university has again become accustomed to success.

"In the first year, there were so many new faces and although we were not used to losing, there was a bit of a lack of confidence in the atmosphere," he said.

"Last year there was the question of whether the victory in 1993 was a one-off or whether we had started a trend. There was also increased pressure as people thought we were going to win."

"We knew we had some

Positions switched in secret workout

CAMBRIDGE slipped in a secret early-morning outing yesterday, out of sight of the media, and switched the seating positions of their crew (Mike Rosewell writes). They swapped the places of Scott Brownlee, the tough New Zealander, and Mar Parish, the Great Britain international. Parish now sits at No 6 and Brownlee, one of the strongest men in the Light Blue line-up, is at No 4. Many thought earlier in the year that Parish would be the Cambridge stroke man, but in the first line-up he was at No 2. Since then he has moved steadily down the boat.

Harry Mahon, Cambridge's finishing coach, played down suggestions of panic moves by saying: "It will break the monotony, give them something else to do."



The Cambridge crew demonstrates its new-found skill during training. Photograph: Des Jensen

talented people and so not to have produced a good crew would have been sacrilegious." The result was considered by many to be one of the most powerful and technically proficient university eights seen in the race.

Robin Williams, the new Cambridge coach, has benefited not only from what he terms "having a good system in place" left by his predecessors, John Wilson and Sean Bowden, but also from the renovation of the Goldie boathouse.

This has allowed the Cambridge squad flexibility in its land training. In previous

years, the rowers exercised at the university sports centre in their early morning sessions and had to put out and put back some of the equipment. They can now save 15 minutes a day by leaving their ergometers (rowing machines) in place.

"We are dedicated to time management," Williams said. "An extra 15 minutes of sleep in early morning counts for a lot. The crews here are not only training very hard, they are working academically very hard as well."

For Williams, there are advantages in coming into a successful club but there are

also disadvantages. "It was quite daunting at first. If things were being done less well and we were to lose the race, it would land on my shoulders. But I do believe in what I am doing and I do think along the same lines as my predecessors. I have been rewarded by the squad having a lot of confidence in me."

The six months of training focuses on the one race and can be tedious. The juggling was an attempt to introduce variety into the twice-daily sessions. The crew was shown videos to demonstrate that jugglers were not

just circus performers. Williams wanted the crew to be multi-skilled athletes and to learn what was physically possible. "There is a real mental barrier coping with three things in the air and you have to overcome the fear of doing something wrong."

These lessons are applied to rowing during the long outings. The crew has practised with its eyes shut, with only one hand on the oar and even having the entire eight let go of their blades in unison and then simultaneously recover them. It is important, Williams believes, to acquire this sense of control and rhythm.

Ben Crenshaw, the defending champion, is here and so is José María Olazábal, the Masters champion, who set a course record in the first round last year before finishing second to Crenshaw. Fred Couples is playing; so are Ian Woosnam and Sandy Lyle. Thus, four of the past seven, and five of the past 11 Masters' champions are present. For that matter, David Feherty, resident in the States, and Jesper Parnevik have entered as well.

But Nick Faldo is practising in Orlando. Bernhard Langer is resting and practising at a home he owns in Boca Raton, Florida, and Nick Price and Greg Norman have declined to attend. In fact, few of the top 36 players in the world who competed last week at the Players' Championship have moved on to New Orleans.

In New Orleans last year Crenshaw became the first man to record four rounds in the sixties, putting beautifully. He flew to Augusta, where he finished in the top 20. Olazábal gave stern chase to the Texan, only yielding at the end. He travelled on to the Masters and won. There is something to be said for maintaining a competitive edge the week before a major, as Ian Woosnam proved in 1991 by winning here and then going on to win a green jacket a week later.

Last year, Sam Torrance flew halfway around the world, lost his luggage and finished third. By day he played good golf, by night he gambled on a riverboat. He could not have been happier. Torrance is not at English Turn this year either.

unhappy. There are two immediate results from what has happened so far, beyond the embarrassment for the NRA. The first is that anglers in some parts of the country still have greater fishing opportunity than anglers elsewhere — another anomaly the NRA hopes to resolve — even though all coarse anglers pay a common license fee.

The second, and much the more regrettable, is that in the move to legalise coarse fishing in the spring, an important principle has been lost to fishery regulation. It is that gravid or spawning fish should not be harassed. The traditional close season was chosen precisely because it covers the spawning seasons of most coarse species.

Vast numbers of anglers, as well as the National Federation of Anglers itself, regret this and the erosion of sporting principle it brings with it. The question that is bound to be asked at the start of a new trout season is that if commercial lake fisheries may stay open for coarse fish, why should there be a close season that applies to trout in lakes? The principle of protecting gravid fish by law is precisely the same and has already been conceded.

Pressure to open lakes containing brown trout can now be expected from commercial trout fisheries and the thin end of the wedge, which has already found a niche, will be driven deeper. Who knows where it will end? What a way to start a new season.

so that the crew can switch from 100 per cent effort to 100 per cent relaxation, because, in rowing, the 100 per cent effort of the stroke follows the 100 per cent relaxation in the recovery.

A martial arts exhibition showed the crew just how fast hands can actually move. "It was not only variety for their training, it allowed them to think about their bodies," Williams said. The coach also spent time with the two coxes, Russell Stalford and Mark Davies, with Stalford finally getting the Boat Race place. He believes that in a close race a cox can win the event. During the race itself, the cox has to act virtually as the coach and therefore his or her role on the day is crucial.

In training sessions, Cambridge have been tape-recording the cox's instructions. Williams explained: "We then come into the office and listen to the raw words, the tone of the voice, whether they are the right kind of words and whether they are carried with conviction and authority, and whether the words are too repetitive, whether they are focusing too much on aggression and technique."

He accepts that Oxford have a formidable coaching team. The presence of Dan Topolski alone will be worth a length or two for Oxford, while there cannot be many people with a greater knowledge of rowing than Penny Chuter.

"But I am hungry and fresh for my first win. Since arriving here I have been completely absorbed by the race. Statistically, I know that Oxford one year will win again — but not this year."

Cambridge battle against "sea-like" choppy waters in an outing with Goldie, their reserve boat, yesterday

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McMoRan seeks an identity amid the storms

FROM JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN NEW ORLEANS

IS THE jazz still good in Bourbon Street? Do the narrow streets of the French Quarter, lined by brick buildings with ornate wrought-iron balconies, exert as great a pull as ever? Does the Café du Monde still serve its delicious, slightly bitter coffee and beignets? In these respects all remains well in New Orleans.

The weather, however, in this beguiling Louisiana city in the Deep South is dreadful. Heavy rain wiped out the program of the Freeport McMoRan Classic yesterday and threatened the start of the tournament today. Overnight the spectacular skyline was lit up by jagged flashes of lightning. Claps of thunder rumbled up the Mississippi and ricocheted around the skyscrapers.

It has cast a pall over a tournament that struggles for an identity at the best of times. It is the week before the Masters, but only a handful of the game's leading players are at English Turn, a Jack Nicklaus-designed course that is named after a battle in the War of Independence. It is alleged that the brave forces of George III turned sail and ran at a particular bend in the river — but that is a scurrilous rumour.

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

Adams William, Died 7th November 1994, Born 1912 in West Bromwich but last 12 years of his life spent in the town of Birmingham. He was a member of the Birmingham City Council and a member of the Birmingham City Council. He was a member of the Birmingham City Council and a member of the Birmingham City Council. He was a member of the Birmingham City Council and a member of the Birmingham City Council.

WESLEYAN ASSURANCE SOCIETY Head Office, Colwyn Bay, North Wales. Established 1841. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of the above Society will be held at the Head Office on Thursday, 23 April 1995 at 12.00 noon.

Members will be admitted only if they have attained the age of 18 and are resident in the United Kingdom. They must be recommended by two existing members and must be approved by the Council of the Society.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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A close season open to debate

captain). Wappett replaced by M Gornall (Ivybridge College, 16); Cook replaced by D

Scot adopts caution as rival withdraws on run-in to London Marathon

McColgan distances herself from the hype

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS a strangely reticent Liz McColgan who was called on yesterday by the Nutra-Sweet London Marathon to look into the crystal ball for the race on Sunday. McColgan, it appears, has given up telling her fortune in public.

For once, McColgan was trying to prevent hype from being her pacemaker. Though she said she was "excited" and "looking forward to getting out there", she refused to talk about how fast she might run, or give details of her recent training.

For all her achievements on the track, at cross country and

impression that the marathon was child's play.

"Brash", Lisa Ondieki, the double Commonwealth champion, called her. "Two athletes with developed egos," David Bedford, the London elite field director, said of Ondieki and McColgan before the 1993 race in which the unassuming Katrin Dörre, of Germany, beat both of them.

A combination of injuries have kept McColgan, 30, away from the international sharp end for two years. Sensibly, in the circumstances, she said yesterday that a victory on Sunday in a competitive field — Dörre is seeking a fourth successive win — was all she was concerned with.

"I am not worried about time at all," McColgan said. "It is a big race and it is more important to win." Briefly, the devil urging her on to mischief reappeared. "But, then again," McColgan added, "if it is fast, I am not worried about that either." Otherwise, McColgan was unassuming.

One injury after another, including knee surgery, have frustrated McColgan, not to mention costing her a small fortune in lost earnings. Any problems now? "Nothing at all," she said yesterday. "I have been in full training for eight months."

Normally, McColgan would go into details. When she did so in New York in 1991, Carey Pinkowski, the Chicago Marathon race director, could not believe his ears. "Her training indicates 2hr 17min," he said. "She could revolutionise the sport."

McColgan was asked to confirm reports of high-mileage running but suggested they were hearsay. "I have not said anything about the training I have been doing," she said. "I do not really want to comment on my training. It is



McColgan, in London yesterday, refused to talk about how fast she might run

in half-marathons, McColgan is still an unproven marathon runner. She has run the distance three times but is not among the 35 fastest women. In the British rankings, she trails Veronique Martel's 2hr 25min 55sec in London in 1989 and Priscilla Welch's 2:26:51 on the same course, in 1987.

McColgan won the 1991 New York Marathon with what was then the fastest debut, 2hr 27min 32sec, but she has yet to improve on that. In New York she talked about breaking 2hr 20min, referred to the achievements of Grete Waitz and Ingrid Kristiansen, as "a stepping-stone, not barriers," and generally gave the

impression that the marathon was child's play.

something now I think I should keep to myself and then no one will say you are doing too much' or 'you are doing too little'."

If McColgan can convert her performances in recent shorter-distance road races into a comparable marathon, she should be heading for 2:24 to 2:26. She recorded 48min 59sec for 15 kilometres in February and 69min 49sec for a half-marathon two weeks ago.

However, McColgan said she had been suffering from a swollen windpipe which had affected her breathing in the half-marathon and the race

had been a "big disappointment" to her. Her breathing is fine now.

No sooner had McColgan finished than Peter, her husband, was talking of possible legal action over advice given in relation to one of her injuries. He said that medical specialists had been consulted and, once reports were in, a solicitor would be engaged "to see where we go, if anywhere."

Had she built on her New York Marathon and 10,000 metres world championship success in 1991, McColgan could have expected to earn close to £500,000 a year. Fortunately for her, before her

troubles began, London signed her up to run three of the four marathons from 1993 to 1996 for £450,000.

She appears confident the injury troubles are behind her. Some people have written her off, but she is determined the story will not finish there. McColgan may be encouraged by the example of Derartu Tulu, the Ethiopian who won the women's world cross country title in Durham on Saturday. Tulu had been fighting injury even longer than McColgan, since just after winning the Olympic 10,000 metres in 1992. A knee injury no less.

Niemczak, 29, had already been banned for two years after testing positive for the steroid, nandrolone, at the 1986 New York marathon.

Heel injury forces Ondieki to miss race

By DAVID POWELL

LISA ONDIEKI, runner-up for the past two years, has withdrawn from the race on Sunday because of an injury to her right Achilles tendon, it was announced yesterday. Ondieki's manager, Jos Hermens, notified the marathon organisers on Tuesday afternoon after the athlete had suffered the injury while training in Zurich.

Ondieki, the Australian record-holder with 2hr 23min 55sec, reduces to three the number of women Liz McColgan considers to be rivals for victory in the women's race. McColgan said yesterday that Katrin Dörre, the defending champion from Germany, Manuela Machado, from Portugal, and Renate Kokowska, from Poland, were the athletes she feared. However, Kim Jones and Cathy O'Brien, both from the United States, need to be watched as well.

Although Ondieki's best time was recorded in 1988, she set a New York Marathon course record of 2hr 24min 40sec in 1992 and, after recording 31min 47.11sec for 10,000 metres in December, set an Australian 5,000 metres record of 15min 28.16sec in February. The absence of Ondieki, 34, is a disappointment for the organisers but by no means a devastating blow.

Machado, the European champion and world silver medal-winner, and Dörre, who ran her fastest time of 2hr 25min 15sec in her 31st marathon when she won in Berlin last autumn, are a formidable pair.

Antoni Niemczak, the Polish marathon runner, will be banned for two years pending a hearing by his national federation after testing positive for a banned drug for the second time. Christopher Wimmer, of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, said yesterday that Niemczak had tested positive for the stimulant, ephedrine, at the Tokyo international marathon on February 12.

Niemczak, 29, had already been banned for two years after testing positive for the steroid, nandrolone, at the 1986 New York marathon.

Theatre with 100m seats

Globe Theatre 95: Banishing Lucifer. Radio 4, 2.00pm.

If they choose to, an estimated 100 million people could listen to Hattie Naylor's metaphysical play. That is the kind of wondrous thing that happens when Radio 4 and the World Service pool their artistic and technical resources. I doubt if the next five plays in the Globe Theatre season will be as cosmic in theme as *Banishing Lucifer*. It is universal in audience reach. Kate Fenwick plays the adolescent on each of whose shoulders an angel perches. One is a paradigm for destruction, the other for salvation. They are played by Cathy Murphy and Trevor Peacock. But such is the deliberately ambiguous nature of Naylor's writing that you may end up not knowing for certain which is the goodie and which the baddy.

The Great British Country Music Awards. Radio 2, 7.30pm.

The awards night was staged a fortnight ago at the BBC's Birmingham studios, and I believe there was not an empty seat in the house. Surprisingly, it was the first time a full-scale country music awards ceremony had been seen in Britain. Tonight's recording was predestined for Radio 2; the network has done more than any other to promote the cause of country music. This was acknowledged when one of the awards for the all-time favourite country music star was named the Radio 2 Radio Times award. *British Country*, which has Coppelde presents on Radio 2 at 10pm, complements the coverage of the Birmingham ceremony.

Peter Daville



Only in The Times next week: the complete list of London Marathon finishers

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Who would have thought a business account with a cheque book could attract this much interest?

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Balance	Gross p.a.	Gross (CAR)	Net p.a.	Net (CAR)
£2,000 - £4,999	3.75%	3.80%	2.81%	2.84%
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£10,000 - £24,999	4.75%	4.84%	3.56%	3.61%
£25,000 - £49,999	5.25%	5.35%	3.94%	4.00%
£50,000 and over	5.65%	5.77%	4.24%	4.31%

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Interest will normally be paid at the net rate which is the rate after the deduction of income tax at the basic rate. Individuals may reclaim income tax from the Inland Revenue where the amount deducted exceeds an account holder's liability to tax. Interest may be paid at the gross rate which is the rate without deduction of tax at the basic rate to account holders who are eligible to receive interest gross. If the account balance falls below £2,000 interest will be paid at 0.50% gross p.a. All rates quoted are variable. The CAR (compound annual rate) is the rate equivalent to a net or gross rate annualised to take account of the compounding of interest paid quarterly. Interest is calculated daily and will be paid quarterly on the first day of March, June, September and December. Rates correct at time of going to press. Withdrawals subject to branch limits. CHAPS and SWIFT transfers available (subject to a fee). Minimum opening balance £2,000. Cheque enclosures subject to the terms and conditions of the account. Up to six cheques may be deposited on any one day. Cash deposits are not accepted. Nationwide is a member of the Building Societies Association. Nationwide Building Society, Nationwide House, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Nick-off 7.30 unless stated

UNBOND LEAGUE: First division: Aston United v Warrington Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Chorley v Bamber Bridge

DIADORA LEAGUE: Second division: Avelley v Hungerford, Harriet Harpstead v Boreham Wood Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Marlow v Aylesbury

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Rushden and Diamonds v Grimsby and Northfleet, Midland division: Buckingham Town v Ilkeston

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnetley v Tiverton

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Blackburn v Truro (at Wigan FC, 7.0), Stoke v Bolton (7.0)

ALPSBRIGHT BITTER WELSH CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Wrexham v Merthyr

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTRIES LEAGUE: First division: Trafford v Baccus

BEKINS AND BUCKS SENIOR CUP: Semi-final: Redd v Newbury

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTRIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Festovale v Great Yarmouth

WINDSOR LEAGUE: First division: Thatcham v Ryde Sports

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Ramsgate v Beckenham

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: First division: Chalfont St Giles v Hemel Hempstead

SCHOOLS MATCHES: NW Woodward Cup: Semi-final: Liverpool v Bury (at Penny Lane, 6.0)

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: British lightweight championship: Michael Ayers (Trainer, holder) v Karl Taylor (Birmingham) (Crystal Palace)

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Ipswich v Cradley Heath

SNOWREPORTS

Depth (cm) Conditions Flurs to resort Weather (Sun) Last

AUSTRIA 175 330 powder powder powder snow 0 29/3

Mayrhofen 5 100 good powder closed snow -2 29/3

Obergurgl 60 165 good powder good snow -8 29/3

FRANCE 250 480 good powder good snow -3 29/3

Alpe d'Huez 330 420 good powder good snow -8 29/3

Avoriaz 230 290 powder powder snow -8 29/3

Tignes 220 375 powder powder snow -5 29/3

Val Thorens 120 180 good powder good snow -7 29/3

SWITZERLAND 180 280 good powder good snow -8 29/3

Mürren 180 280 good powder good snow -8 29/3

(Fresh powder everywhere, poor light but outlook great)

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

FOLIE DE DOUTE

(a) Pathologically obsessive doubt about anything and everything done by the sufferer. At once the most touching and the most charming of neuroses.

FULSOME

(c) Excessive, cloying through surfeit. As, for example, the wild praise given by a British sports commentator to the performance of the British swimmer who has just come last in the first heat of her event in the Commonwealth Games. Derived from *ful*, it is applicable only to praise. One does not speak of *fulsome abuse* or *fulsome criticism*. The word is changing its meaning because of the widespread belief that it means *wholehearted* or *generous* (praise). *Fulsome* should be a pejorative epithet.

ENORMITY

(d) Monstrous wickedness, not as it is often misused, enormity or vastness, or the quality of being enormous. Both *enormous* and *enormity* come from the same Latin root meaning out of the ordinary, but they have drifted so far apart that it has become difficult to use *enormity* in its proper sense without sounding pedantic. "Cheer up, Mary-Anne. To split an infinitive in your first sentence was no doubt imprudent. But in spite of the rage of the readers, it is not such an enormity as they pretend."

DAPATICAL

(b) Sumptuous, delicious, applied to such feasts as those given by City livery companies and Oxbridge colleges, from the Latin *dapes* a feast.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Nxe2 3 Kxe2 Bde1 and White is helpless against ... b6 winning the errant knight.

حكايا من الماضي

A sense of loss and a sense of proportion

In the chapel of rest a body is respectfully placed so as to be a dignified sight for those who have come to mourn. Outside, gravestones etched with home-produced poetry, or with simple phrases meant to summarise the relationship of the mourned to the mourners, dapple the close-mown grass. A man looks wistful. There were more friends at Kim's interment than there probably will be at mine.

Kim was a dog. The body in the chapel of rest is that of a dog. The words on the gravestones refer to dogs, cats, a guinea pig. This is the British, partial to their pets. To mock would not be hard but to mock Times Goodbye, Dear Friend (BBC 2) did not mock and nor shall I.

There is, however, a case for wondering if people newly insoluble at the sight of a dead animal have quite got things in proportion. There is a case for

startlement when a couple, their children grown up, talk about their two dogs and their new grandchild and appear to say that the former are more important to them than the latter.

Naturally one can sympathise, indeed empathise, with the widow for whom her sole remaining companion, a dog, had been a keen and vital comfort. Obviously the blind woman whose guide dog dies has been in a very special relationship, one beyond the understanding of a sighted person lacking that dependence.

Clearly, as a dog owner, one can see how the absolute loyalty of these animals in return for the basics of life tends to produce an emotional response, much as babies are loved in part for their dependent adoration.

Goodbye, Dear Friend was in many ways a moving film and deserves credit for avoiding the cheap-shot tendency to ridicule

The programme made no judgments, letting the participants speak for themselves. We saw a remarkable and caring woman in Janet Thomas, who runs a Peak District veterinary hospital and spends as much emotional energy comforting owners as she does technical expertise in "putting to sleep" their pets.

A burly man just parted from his pet wonders aloud how he would feel if "they bring in euthanasia", it being hard enough to sanction that end for a dog let alone one's parents. But herein lay the root of the unease: this documentary engendered, for putting down a dog and ending the life of a person are not remotely the same thing.

But if we insist on making the furniture of animal death no different from the furniture of human death — the gravestone, the casket, the chapel of rest, even

this project so he mortgaged his pension to raise the money.

I happen to think that the West should not have spent so much as a minute in the former Yugoslavia. Footnotes have been disgracefully inept and disgracefully under-involved. Oddly enough, these views are not entirely irreconcilable and this powerful film was worth whatever financial sacrifice Foot made.

In the clearest terms, he exposed the lunacy of Western shilly-shallying, which has left the hideous Serb aggressors laughing their socks off. Assorted Western negotiators march across the screen — Carrington, Vance, Owen, Stoltenberg — hearing maps, ceasefire agreements and pious hopes about men of goodwill.

The United Nations sits on its hands, except when one of them is raised to agree a new initiative nobody has any intention of en-

forcing. The Foot-Craigie film ends with the late, under which Serbia would have 50 per cent of Bosnia. The thief has stolen a loaf, and his punishment is that he can keep only half of it.

Foot is right that we should have armed the Croats and the Slovenians and indeed the Bosnian Muslims, but he made no convincing case for further Western involvement — an involvement which strikes me as part of the problem, not the solution.

Still, there is not much wrong with a world that has had the wit to reinvent University Challenge (BBC 2), which reached the final last night under the new chairmanship of Jeremy Paxman. I expect Paxman is glad of the extra spring in his bow, now that John Birt has taken against him for asking politicians nasty questions.

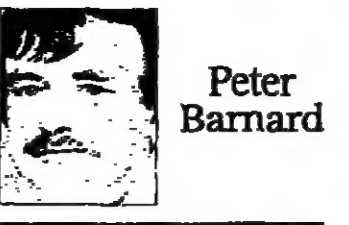
Paxman is an able successor to

Bamber Gascoigne, who turned up all suave and smiling to present the trophy last night. In an Oxford and Cambridge universities final, Trinity College, Cambridge amassed 390 points against New College, Oxford, who managed only 180 points.

Paxman gamely kept the show alive by reminding us, several times, that New College had come back from the dead in every round leading to the final, but Trinity refused to follow the script. One of their number even knew that "karaoke" was the Japanese for "empty orchestra", confirming the suspicion that *Trivial Pursuit* is as handy a swot for *University Challenge* as anything in a university library.

The star of the show was Trinity's Kwasi Kwarteng, a classics student who seemed to know absolutely everything. Brilliant chap, terrific mind. So don't expect him to succeed in life.

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

the presence of a cleric — then we lose our sense of the order of things, which can be as demeaning to humanity as it is of our pets.

You can be sure that a lot more people watched *Modern Times* last night than tuned into *Two from London*, a documentary by Michael Foot and Jill Craigie, his wife. Foot could not get a network interested in financing

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- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (18352)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (5635352)
 - 9.05 Kilroy (s) (1578653)
 - 10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (Ceefax) (7171634) 10.05 EastEnders — The Early Days (s) (Ceefax) (818837)
 - 10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick Family magazine (s) (7423301)
 - 12.00 News; Regional News and Weather; Weather (Ceefax) (1593932)
 - 12.05pm Pebble Mill (s) (7705905)
 - 12.55 Regional News and Weather (15338011)
 - 1.00 One O'Clock News and Weather (Ceefax) (80450) 1.30 Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (7062593)
 - 1.50 Going for Gold with the affable Henry Kelly at the helm (s) (7708351)
 - 2.15 FILM: *Beastie The Next Generation* (1989) The late Ben Cartwright's brother has taken over the Ponderosa in this film sequel to the television series. (191382)
 - 3.50 Jackanory: The Twinkles at Chisley-Mess (s) (8362479) 4.00 Robin Hood (Ceefax) (9599276) 4.25 Animal Hospital (s) (4736180)
 - 4.35 Mud (s) (Ceefax) (1074295)
 - 5.00 Newsround (2779479)
 - 5.05 The Machine Gunners (s) (Ceefax) (8575127)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (177818)
 - 6.00 Six O'Clock News and Weather (Ceefax) (547)
 - 6.30 Regional news magazines (127)
 - 7.00 Top of the Pops (s) (Ceefax) (7092)
 - 7.30 EastEnders (s) (Ceefax) (851)
 - 8.00 Animal Hospital Week. In the last of the series, Roll Harris looks back at cases he has encountered (s) (Ceefax) (8740)
 - 8.30 Crown Prosecutor: Lenny has a case which is not quite as it appears (s) (Ceefax) (2547)
 - 9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (Ceefax) (8943)

- BBC2**
- 6.20 Open University (Ceefax and signing) (8065295)
 - 8.15 Westminster On-Line with Andrew Neil (s) (4553818)
 - 9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (8159943) 1.45 Storytime (2566101) 2.00 Stoppit and Tidup (6521001) 2.50 Puppypod Tales (6521932)
 - 2.10 Made by Man. The craft of the carwright (3901363) 2.30 From the Edge. (Ceefax) (160)
 - 3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster with Nick Ross (Ceefax) (4571127) 3.50 News (Ceefax) and weather (8333721)
 - 4.00 Today's the Day. Recent history quiz (s) (740)
 - 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (924)
 - 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. A discussion on symptoms of depression. (Ceefax) (s) (3449382)
 - 5.40 Glynis Christian's Entertaining Microwave. A fast three-course oriental meal (s) (182255)
 - 6.00 Quantum Leap (s) (Ceefax) (s) (256112)
 - 6.45 Lifesavers. A New-Age traveller swaps places with a young farmer who regards travellers as a menace. (874547) Wales (to 7.30) Star Trek (85059)
 - 7.00 Waiting for God (s) (Ceefax) (s) (5634)
 - 7.30 First Sight: A Bird's Eye View of the Homeless. John Bird, the founder of The Big Issue magazine, tells the story of the homeless. (Ceefax) (s) (563)
 - 8.00 A Little Local Difficulty. Belfast-born Robert Wilson sends an unlikely valentine to his birthplace. (Ceefax) (s) (4382)

- CHOICE**
- Absolutely Fabulous** BBC1, 9.30pm They are back, darling. Who, darling? Why Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley, darling. Jennifer's the clever darling who writes this show. She also plays PR lady Edina, whose exhausting schedule comprises getting out of bed, getting dressed, going out to lunch and calling everyone darling. Joanna plays pal Patsy, the fashion editor with the glossy hair-do and the foul tongue. Edina is so determined to be in vogue, preferably 1960s vogue, that she goes all the way to New York for a kitchen door handle. What a gag! What a darling! Jennifer has written some darling lines, giving most of them to herself. June Whitfield, as Jennifer's mum, has fewer lines but tends to get the biggest laughs. She is a real darling.
 - Vietnam Stories: Timeboxed** BBC2, 9.30pm A selection of BBC footage of the Vietnam War is presented by Julian Pettifer, one of several young reporters who covered the conflict. Another was Martin Bell, seen here observing as early as 1966 that the nature of the country would make an American victory very difficult. The rest of the programme is a demonstration of how right Bell was. That much of the footage predates the arrival of colour only seems to make it more sombre. Although the British had no direct axis to grind, the coverage cannot help but echo the futility of American policy. Perhaps the biggest American mistake was to give television crews unlimited access. As Pettifer says, they are unlikely to make the same error again.
 - Whose News? The Tabloid** Channel 4, 9.00pm The *Daily News* is the biggest of the New York tabloid newspapers but in fierce competition with its two rivals. After nearly going bankrupt under the late Robert Maxwell, it was bought by a Canadian property developer, Mortimer B. Zuckerman. He, in turn, hired an Englishman, Martin Dunn, as Editor-in-Chief. With stints on *The Sun* and *The News of the World*, Dunn knows all about the tabloid game but he admits that New York is a tough assignment. The trouble is not so much too few stories but too many. The programme follows some of Dunn's star reporters as they try to dig out an exclusive. Their efforts are overtaken when a much bigger and better story materialises: the death of Jackie Kennedy.
 - Troubled social worker Phyllis Logan** (TV, 8.00pm) Child: Here Comes the Mirror Man (TV, 9.00pm) Stephen Gallagher's contribution to the season of psychological thrillers features Phyllis Logan as Anna, an overburdened social worker who takes on a very strange client. Gary (John Simm) is a disturbed young man who lives rough in an abandoned church and appears to be under the spell of somebody called Michael. Whatever Michael says Gary does, and it is not usually pleasant. Then along comes Anna, who tells Gary that Michael does not exist. It proves not to be the most judicious remark. Connoisseurs of such tales will probably be able to guess the outcome. But if the narrative holds few surprises it builds to a tense climax and offers a neatly ironic touch just before the final credits.

- CARLTON**
- 6.00am GMTV (7144189)
 - 9.25 Chain Letters (s) (3572721) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (817653)
 - 10.00 The Three... The Place Topical discussion series chaired by John Stapleton (s) (701672)
 - 10.35 This Morning presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan (2888843) 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (1835276)
 - 12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (459303)
 - 12.55 Emmerdale (s) (Teletext) (2482450) 1.25 Home and Away (Teletext) (5730856)
 - 1.55 Vanessa. Vanessa Feltz asks wives if they forgive their husbands. (Teletext) (s) (35276059) 2.25 A Country Practice (s) (74036740)
 - 2.50 Gardeners' Diary. John Ravenscroft with seasonal advice (7554214) 3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (8383653) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (8382923)
 - 3.30 The Riddlers (s) (2457043) 3.40 Wizards (s) (s) (831383) 3.50 Rupert (s) (7948009) 4.15 Antiques (Teletext) (s) (8797450) 4.40 Fun House (Teletext) (s) (8338837)
 - 5.10 After 5 with Carol Keating (Teletext) (656568)
 - 5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (441030)
 - 5.55 Your Show. Members of the public air their views (331160)
 - 6.00 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (643)
 - 6.30 London Tonight. (Teletext) (285)
 - 7.00 Emmerdale. (Teletext) (2180)
 - 7.30 3-D. Julia Somerville asks if our hair is safe in hairdressers' hands (479)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.35 Spiff and Hercules (2402030)
 - 7.00 The Big Breakfast (25841)
 - 9.00 You Bet Your Life (s) (s) (33374)
 - 9.30 Schools: Middle English (509634) 9.45 The New Living Body (5883943) 10.05 Scientific Eye (815382) 10.27 Geographical Eye over Africa (842818) 10.59 Your World (65047) 11.00 History in Action (659585) 11.20 Earth: The Home Planet (6873547) 11.40 The German Programme (4497295)
 - 12.00 House to House. Behind the scenes in politics with Maya Evans (25498)
 - 12.30 Sesame Street. The guests are Bill Irwin and Whoopi Goldberg (78721) 1.30 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (s) (s) (3525982)
 - 1.55 A Blink of Paradise. A short film starring Martha Plimpton as a young woman obsessed by memories of her mother (7708703)
 - 2.15 FILM: *Phone Call From a Stranger* (1952). Comedy drama starring Gary Merrill as a survivor who visits the families of three fellow-passengers who died in an air crash. With Shelley Winters and Bette Davis. (198180)
 - 4.00 Profiles of Nature. The work of North America's most famous wildlife artist, Maynard Reece, who painted waterfowl (s) (108)
 - 4.30 Countdown (s) (Teletext) (932)
 - 5.00 Ricki Lake. How important is the age gap in a relationship? (s) (Teletext) (8404765)
 - 5.50 Terrytoons. Classic animation (354011)
 - 6.00 The Cooby Show: Rudy's Retreat (s) (Teletext) (555)
 - 6.30 Served By the Bell: The College Years. Lenny realises that dating Kelly could be problematic. (Teletext) (837)
 - 7.00 Channel 4 News and Weather (Teletext) (288740)
 - 7.50 The Slot (253498)
 - 8.00 Hard Men. Following the story of Brendan Collum, who enters the Mr. Strathclyde Body Building Championships (s) (Teletext) (9450)
 - 8.30 Food File. An investigation into organic meat, with The Times cook, Frances Chant, how to make sushi, and a search for Britain's oldest food shop. (s) (Teletext) (555)



Clarkson drives the new Cinquecento (8.30pm)

- 9.30 Absolutely Fabulous** (s) (Ceefax) (36450)
- 10.00 Men Behaving Badly**. Gary invents a rampant sexual history (s) (Ceefax) (52419)
- 10.30 Question Time**. Facing the questions this week are Education Secretary Gillian Shepherd, Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary Jack Cunningham, author Frederick Raphael and Diane Madge, Liberal Democrat spokeswoman on housing (Ceefax) (62363) Wales: The Line (19837) 11.00 Question Time (s) (71818) 12.00 Cagney and Lacey (5558412) 12.45 FILM: *The Club* (58290) 2.20 News Headlines (582764)
- 11.30 Cagney and Lacey: A Fair Shake**. Christine and Mary Beth realise that a case is threatening their lives and careers. (s) (Ceefax) (555547)
- 12.15am FILM: The Club** (1980). A former soccer star and fading coach takes on the management of the game. (Ceefax) (378670)
- 1.50 Weather** (818915)

- 8.30 Top Gear**. Jeremy Clarkson test drives Fiat's stylish new sports car. (Ceefax) (s) (2419)
- 9.00 The Glam Metal Detectives** (Ceefax) (6585)
- 9.30 Timewatch: The BBC in Vietnam**. (Ceefax) (s) (861479)
- 10.15 Russian Wonderland**. A portrait of a man who claims he is the biggest gangster in Tatarstan. (Ceefax) (s) (15498)
- 10.30 Newsnight** with Kirsty Wark. (Ceefax) (246082)
- 11.15 Late Review** (s) (122108)
- 11.55 Weather** (564450)
- 12.00 Open View** (s) (5623528)
- 12.05am Summer School: Time for You**. (Ceefax) (s) (4854412)
- 12.30 The Record**. The day in Parliament (s) (27412). Ends at 1.00

- Child: Here Comes the Mirror Man** (TV, 9.00pm) Stephen Gallagher's contribution to the season of psychological thrillers features Phyllis Logan as Anna, an overburdened social worker who takes on a very strange client. Gary (John Simm) is a disturbed young man who lives rough in an abandoned church and appears to be under the spell of somebody called Michael. Whatever Michael says Gary does, and it is not usually pleasant. Then along comes Anna, who tells Gary that Michael does not exist. It proves not to be the most judicious remark. Connoisseurs of such tales will probably be able to guess the outcome. But if the narrative holds few surprises it builds to a tense climax and offers a neatly ironic touch just before the final credits.

- 10.00 News at Ten** (Teletext) and weather (28855)
- 10.30 London Tonight** (Teletext) and weather (901547)
- 10.40 Revelations**. Drama serial about a bishop and his family. With Paul Schofield and Judy Loe (s) (718818)
- 11.10 Big City**. Paul Ross and Carolyn Marshall with the latest in the present series (s) (359160)
- 11.40 The Powers That Be**. Comedy series starring John Forgy as an affable American senator with a puffy family (802092)
- 12.15am The Little Picture Show** presented by Mariella Frostrup (s) (215508)
- 1.15 The Beat with Gary Crowley** (s) (211764)
- 2.15 The Album Show** (s) (8281580)
- 3.10 America's Top Ten** (s) (8576764)
- 3.35 Sport AM** (s) (850832)
- 4.00 Videofest** (s) (26306)
- 5.00 Vanessa** (s) (Teletext) (s) (15702)
- 5.30 TIT Morning News** (34290). Ends at 6.00

- 9.00 Whose News? The Tabloid** (s) (Teletext) (7189)
- 10.00 FILM: Murder in Mississippi** (1990). A reconstruction of the murder of civil rights activists in the Deep South in 1964, starring Tom Hulce, Blair Underwood and Josh Charles. Directed by Roger Young. (s) (Teletext) (397301)
- 11.55 Whose News? Videos, Vigilantes and Voyeurism**. Questioning the role of the video camera in society now that video footage is accepted as evidence in court (s) (844005)
- 1.00 Dispatches** (s) (Teletext) (718276)
- 1.45 FILM: Snowbound** (1948, b/w). Thriller set in a lonely hut in the Alps. Starring Robert Newton, Dennis Price and Herbert Lom. Directed by David MacDonald. Ends at 4.00 (287967)

- ANGLIA**
- As London except: 9.55am-10.00 Anglia News (176022) 12.30pm-12.35 Anglia News (176022) 1.25pm-1.30 Anglia News (176022) 1.35pm-1.40 Anglia News (176022) 1.45pm-1.50 Anglia News (176022) 1.55pm-2.00 Anglia News (176022) 2.05pm-2.10 Anglia News (176022) 2.15pm-2.20 Anglia News (176022) 2.25pm-2.30 Anglia News (176022) 2.35pm-2.40 Anglia News (176022) 2.45pm-2.50 Anglia News (176022) 2.55pm-3.00 Anglia News (176022) 3.05pm-3.10 Anglia News (176022) 3.15pm-3.20 Anglia News (176022) 3.25pm-3.30 Anglia News (176022) 3.35pm-3.40 Anglia News (176022) 3.45pm-3.50 Anglia News (176022) 3.55pm-4.00 Anglia News (176022) 4.05pm-4.10 Anglia News (176022) 4.15pm-4.20 Anglia News (176022) 4.25pm-4.30 Anglia News (176022) 4.35pm-4.40 Anglia News (176022) 4.45pm-4.50 Anglia News (176022) 4.55pm-5.00 Anglia News (176022) 5.05pm-5.10 Anglia News (176022) 5.15pm-5.20 Anglia News (176022) 5.25pm-5.30 Anglia News (176022) 5.35pm-5.40 Anglia News (176022) 5.45pm-5.50 Anglia News (176022) 5.55pm-6.00 Anglia 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